

N O R T H C A R O L I N A

Violent Death
Reporting System
Annual Report
2006

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
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Executive Summary

North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System, 2006

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence, specifically homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and those deaths where the intent could not be determined. The system is a relational database and compiles information on the victims, suspects and circumstances surrounding each violent death. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The collection of this information has created a better understanding of the circumstances that surround violent deaths that occur in North Carolina. The goal of the system is to aid researchers, legislators and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This report summarizes the findings from deaths that occurred during 2006 to North Carolina residents.

Overall Violent Deaths

In 2006, 1,785 North Carolina residents died as a result of violence. Of those deaths, 62% were due to suicide and 34% were due to homicide (Fig.i). Young adults ages 20-24 had the highest rate of violent death. Overall, men were over three times more likely than women to die from violence. The most common method involved in violent deaths was firearms, followed by poisoning, hanging/suffocation, and the use of a sharp instrument.

Males of all races were shown to have a higher violent death rate than their female counterparts (Fig. ii). The rate of violent death among black males was driven by the high rate of homicide, in contrast to the violent death rate among white males which was driven by suicide (Fig. iii). Rates for other races were not calculated due to small numbers of suicide events in these groups.

Figure i: Manner of Violent Death, N.C., 2006

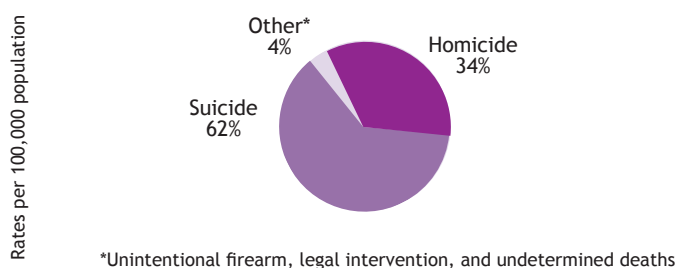


Figure ii: Violent Death Rates by Race and Gender, N.C., 2006

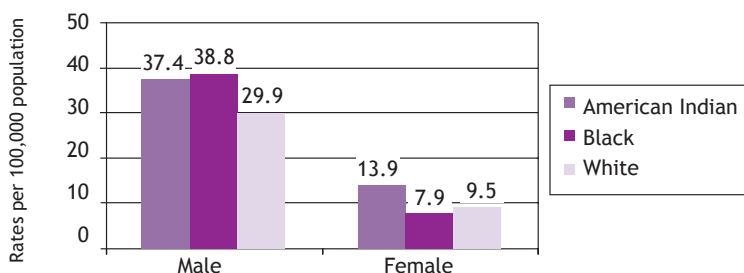
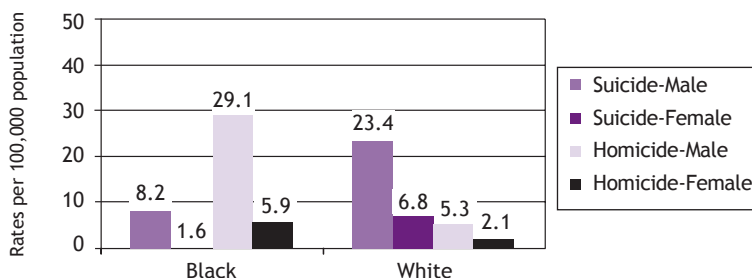


Figure iii: Homicide and Suicide Rates by Race and Gender, N.C., 2006



Suicide Deaths

In 2006, 1,106 North Carolinians died by suicide. Males were more than 3.5 times as likely as females to die by suicide (Fig. iv). Of the total suicide victims, 994 (90%) were identified as being white.

While suicide rates were highest among the 45-54 age group, people ages 20-24 and males older than 65 were also at high risk of suicide death (Fig. v).

Suicides most frequently involved the use of a firearm, followed by poisoning and hanging. The type of method differed slightly between male and female victims. The most common method of suicide for females was poisoning (44%), followed by firearms (39%). In contrast, males used firearms in 65% of the suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (18%).

Homicide Deaths

There were 599 homicide deaths among North Carolina residents in 2006. Young adults ages 20-24 had the highest rate of homicide (17.1 per 100,000) (Fig. vi). The majority of the homicides involved males. Males were three times more likely than females to be victims of homicide.

American Indian and black males had the highest rate of homicide, when compared to males and females among other race groups (Fig. vii). Although the rate of death among American Indian males was comparable to that of black males (26.7 vs. 29.1

Figure iv: Suicide Death Rates by Race and Gender, N.C., 2006

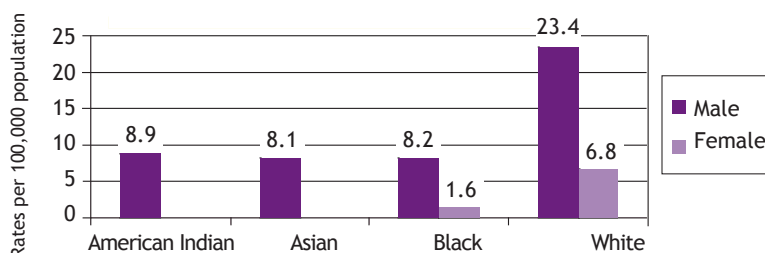


Figure v: Suicide Rates by Age Group, N.C., 2006

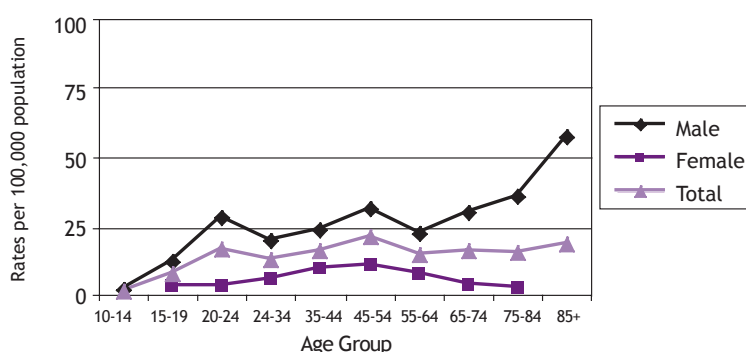


Figure vi: Homicide Rates by Age Group, N.C., 2006

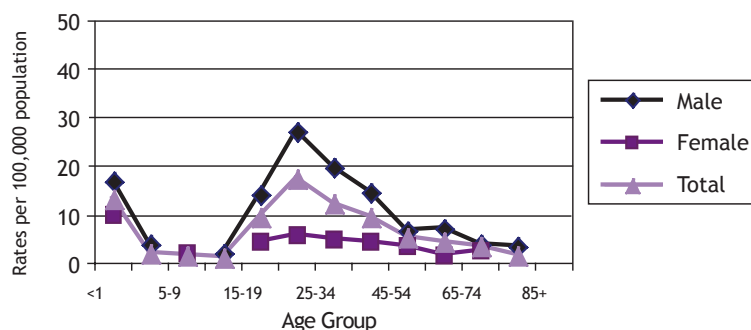
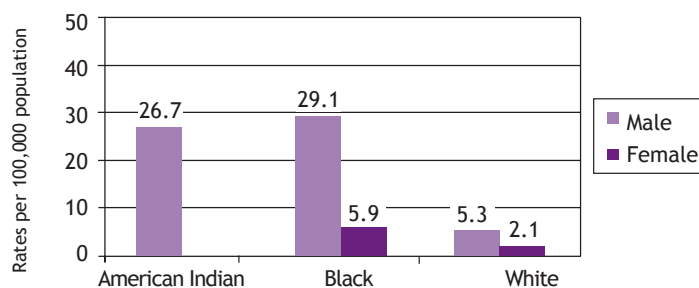


Figure vii: Homicide Rates by Race and Gender, N.C., 2006



per 100,000, respectively), the actual number of black male homicide victims was far greater than the number of American Indian victims (n=268 vs. n=15, respectively). Firearms were the most frequent method used in homicides, accounting for 69% of deaths. The second most frequently used method was sharp instrument (12%).

Child Violent Deaths

In 2006, violence resulted in the deaths of 99 children under the age of 18 in North Carolina. The majority of deaths in this group were due to homicide (64%), followed by suicide (26%) and unintentional firearm deaths (4%). The manner in 5% of these deaths could not be determined. Male children were more likely to be victims of violent death than female children. The rate of violent death among black children was significantly higher—almost twice that of white children (7.1 vs. 3.6 per 100,000, respectively). Children under the age of one and ages 15-17 had the highest rates of violent death (13.3 and 12.6 per 100,000, respectively).

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

There were 14 unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2006. Of those deaths, 71% were male. Unintentional firearm deaths most often occurred while playing with a gun (36%), loading a gun (21%) or cleaning a gun (21%).

Weapons

Firearms were identified as the most common weapon used in overall violent deaths for 2006 (62%). A firearm was used in 59.2% of the suicides and 68.5% of the homicides. The most common weapon used by females in suicides was poison (44.2%), and in homicides was firearms (48.6%). For males, a firearm was the weapon used most often in both suicides (63.2%) and homicides (74.4%). Among victims ages 5 or older, a firearm was the most common weapon, while among victims younger than 5 years old, unarmed assault was most often used in violent deaths. Handguns were the most common type of firearm used (71.2%), followed by shotguns (15.2%) and rifles (10.3%).

Intimate Partner Violence

Of the 599 homicides that occurred to North Carolina residents in 2006, 105 were identified as being related to intimate partner violence (IPV). Sixty-two (44.9%) of the homicides of women and 43 (9.3%) of the homicides of men were related to IPV. Prevalence of IPV was highest among homicide victims ages 45-54 (23.8%), 35-44 (21.4%) and 25-34 (21.2%). However, when examining IPV homicide victims alone, deaths were highest among those ages 25-34 for both males (34.9%) and females (25.8%). Victims of IPV-related homicide were most often black (51.4%), followed by white (44.8%). Among males, more victims of IPV-related homicide were black (58.1%) than white (37.2%). The rates of IPV-related homicide were similar for black (46.8%) and for white women (50.0%).

Undetermined Intent

There were 42 deaths of undetermined intent that occurred to North Carolina residents in 2006. Of these victims, 83.3% were white, and most (35.7%) were in the 45-54 year age group.

Introduction

Violence-related injuries are among the leading causes of death in the United States. Each year there are approximately 18,000 homicides and 32,000 suicides nationwide, many of which are preventable. In North Carolina, nearly 10,000 persons died from suicide or homicide in the five-year period from 2000 to 2005. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state's 11th and 15th leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. Homicide is the state's second leading cause of death for people ages 15-24 and 35-44, and fourth leading cause of death for those ages 10-14; suicide is the third leading cause of death for people ages 10-34. This report provides comprehensive information on the characteristics and circumstances of violent death victims and incidents within North Carolina, using data from the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS). For the purpose of this report, violent deaths include deaths from homicide, suicide and legal intervention, as well as deaths of undetermined intent and from unintentional firearm injuries.

The NC-VDRS is a CDC-funded public health, population-based surveillance system that contains detailed information on deaths that result from violence. It is operated by the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch to provide injury and violence prevention specialists and policy-makers detailed information on the victims, suspects, relationships, circumstances, and weapons that are associated with every incident of violence that results in a fatality in North Carolina. The NC-VDRS is an incident-based, relational database that combines data from multiple sources, such as death certificates, medical examiner reports, and incident reports from law enforcement agencies. The NC-VDRS began collecting data on January 1, 2004.

The NC-VDRS is part of a larger, national system that is being developed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2002, Congress appropriated \$1.5 million to create the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) as a means to implement a nationwide surveillance system on deaths from violence. NVDRS is built on the knowledge gained from a firearm reporting system that was developed at the University of Wisconsin and the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS, operated by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center). Participation in NVDRS is through competitive cooperative agreements. North Carolina was awarded funding in August, 2003. As of 2006, 17 states submitted data to the NVDRS, though California's data represented only four counties. The goal is to have all 50 states and U.S. territories contribute their data.

This annual report for the NC-VDRS presents statistics on deaths from violence to residents of North Carolina that occurred in North Carolina during the period of January 1 to December 31, 2006.

Methods

Case Identification

This report provides a comprehensive summary of all violent deaths to residents of North Carolina during 2006. Violent deaths are captured by data abstractors using multiple, complementary data sources, which include:

- **Death Certificates** - obtained from the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics
- **Chief Medical Examiner Reports** - obtained from the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The Chief Medical Examiner is required to evaluate all violent deaths in North Carolina
- **Law Enforcement Reports** - obtained from more than 220 local law enforcement agencies across the state, as well as the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation

In most cases, the sources provide a unanimous categorization for the manner of death. However, in cases where a discrepancy occurs, the abstractor assigns a manner of death for which there is a preponderance of evidence from all sources. This classification must agree with at least one of the primary data sources listed above. These deaths must also correspond with The International Classification of Disease codes, version 10 (ICD-10), in order to be selected as cases for the NC-VDRS.

Operational Definition: ICD-10 Codes that Define NC-VDRS Cases

Manner of Death	Death < 1 year after Injury	Death \geq 1 year or more after Injury
Intentional self-harm	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional firearm	W32-W34	Y86 (guns)
Legal intervention	Y35.0-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

These data are received electronically from the medical examiner and death certificate sources and imported into NC-VDRS. Data that are not received electronically are obtained from the hard-copy file and manually entered by the NC-VDRS abstraction team. Data are routinely evaluated for quality by the program manager. Quality control procedures ensure that the data are as accurate and complete as possible. Quality control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to determine whether cases meet NVDRS eligibility criteria
- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to identify inconsistent manner of death or ICD-10 codes
- Assessment of data completeness, especially manner of death
- Evaluation of data entry errors, including comparison against electronic death certificate data
- Documentation of coding errors
- Assessment of narrative completeness

Defining Manner of Death

The NC-VDRS conceptually defines a violent death as a death due to “the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.” Deaths meeting this definition include intentional deaths, such as:

Suicide - A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional. Suicides are only classified among violent deaths for persons ages 10 or older.

Homicide - A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community. A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional.

Legal Intervention - A death when the decedent was killed by a police officer or other peace officer (persons with specified legal authority to use deadly force), including military police, acting in the line of duty. Legal executions are not included in the NVDRS but are reported in the NC-VDRS as legal intervention deaths.

The database also captures deaths from unintentional firearm injuries and deaths with undetermined intent. These deaths are defined as:

Unintentional Firearm - A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and for which a preponderance of evidence indicates that the shooting was not directed intentionally at the decedent. Since most firearm deaths are intentional, unintentional firearm deaths are included in the data system so that they can be reviewed to identify patterns of injury for injury prevention. This category also includes a child under the age of six who shoots himself or another person, since children under the age of six are presumed not to have developed the ability to intentionally harm themselves or others.

Undetermined Intent - A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.

The national and state violent death reporting systems are the official repository of deaths from terrorism. Deaths in North Carolina that result from an act of terrorism would be listed as a homicide or suicide in the NC-VDRS.

Analysis

This report provides three main types of analytic data on violent deaths in North Carolina: 1) number of deaths from each violent death category; 2) the percent of total deaths for each manner of death, by specific demographic characteristics; and 3) the rate of violent deaths for each manner and demographic characteristic, where possible. The rate of violent death is calculated as the number of deaths per 100,000 North Carolina residents in the same category (rate= [deaths/100,000 population]). The base populations for the rates were calculated using bridged population data (vintage 2007) from the National Center for Health Statistics. Total populations for the main demographic categories are available in Appendix B.

Unless otherwise stated, a child is a person under 18 years of age.

Resident vs. Occurrent Deaths

The NC-VDRS captures data on all violent deaths that occur in the state. *Resident deaths* are those in which the victim was a N.C. resident at the time of death, and the death occurred in North Carolina. *Occurrent deaths*, on the other hand, capture all deaths that occur within North Carolina during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent.

The data in this report are restricted to resident deaths; all victims included in the analyses were classified as residents of North Carolina at the time of death.

Data Use Caveat

All findings in this report are based on rigorous data collection and analysis. However, counts that are small (less than 20) must be interpreted with caution, particularly when they are used in the calculation of death rates. Small numbers, even if they are not used in the calculation of rates, have substantial random variation over time (i.e., a large standard error). This report presents mortality rates for cases where there are at least 5 deaths; however, rates for counts less than 20 should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time. An asterisk (*) in the rate cell indicates that the number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate. A good way of determining the significance of death rates is to use the confidence interval (C.I.) provided. The wider the confidence interval (i.e., the greater the difference between the lower and upper bounds of the confidence interval), the less accurate the rate is, and therefore more caution should be employed when using the data.

Acknowledgements

The NC-VDRS is funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC, and is operated by the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. This annual report was supported by the CDC Cooperative Agreement U17/CCU423098. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

We acknowledge the assistance of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout the state, that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

The law enforcement agencies that have provided data for this report are:

Aberdeen Police Department	Chapel Hill Police Department	Garner Police Department
Ahoskie Police Department	Charlotte/Mecklenburg Police Department	Gaston County Police Department
Alamance County Sheriff's Office	Chatham County Sheriff's Office	Gaston County Sheriff's Office
Albemarle Police Department	Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	Gastonia Police Department
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	Chowan County Sheriff's Office	Goldsboro Police Department
Alleghany County Sheriff's Office	Claremont Police Department	Graham County Sheriff's Office
Anson County Sheriff's Office	Clay County Sheriff's Office	Graham Police Department
Apex Police Department	Clayton Police Department	Granville County Sheriff's Office
Archdale Police Department	Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	Greene County Sheriff's Office
Asheville Police Department	Clinton Police Department	Greensboro Police Department
Avery County Sheriff's Office	Columbus County Sheriff's Office	Greenville Police Department
Ayden Police Department	Concord Police Department	Guildford County Sheriff's Office
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	Craven County Sheriff's Office	Halifax County Sheriff's Office
Belmont Police Department	Cumberland County Sheriff's Office	Hamlet Police Department
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	Currituck County Sheriff's Office	Harnett County Sheriff's Office
Boone Police Department	Davidson County Sheriff's Office	Haywood County Sheriff's Office
Brevard Police Department	Drexel Police Department	Henderson County Sheriff's Office
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	Dunn Police Department	Henderson Police Department
Bryson City Police Department	Duplin County Sheriff's Office	Hendersonville Police Department
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office	Durham Police Department	Hertford County Sheriff's Office
Burke County Sheriff's Office	Durham County Sheriff's Office	Hickory Police Department
Burlington Police Department	Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office	High Point Police Department
Butner Public Safety	Elizabeth City Police Department	Hillsborough Police Department
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	Elizabethtown Police Department	Hoke County Sheriff's Office
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	Fair Bluff Police Department	Holly Springs Police Department
Camden County Sheriff's Office	Farmville Police Department	Huntersville Police Department
Carrboro Police Department	Fayetteville Police Department	Iredell County Sheriff's Office
Carteret County Sheriff's Office	Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Caswell County Sheriff's Office	Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Jacksonville Police Department
Catawba County Police Department	Franklin Police Department	Johnston County Sheriff's Office
Jones County Sheriff's Office	Mt. Holly Police Department	Scotland County Sheriff's Office
Kannapolis Police Department	Murphy Police Department	Selma Police Department

Kernersville Police Department	Nash County Sheriff's Office	Shelby Police Department
Kill Devil Hills Police Department	New Bern Police Department	Smithfield Police Department
Kings Mountain Police Department	New Hanover County Sheriff's Office	Southern Pines Police Department
Kinston Police Department	Newton Police Department	Spring Lake Police Department
Lake Waccamaw Police Department	Northampton County Sheriff's Office	Stallings Police Department
Landis Police Department	Oak Island Police Department	Stanly County Sheriff's Office
Laurinburg Police Department	Onslow County Sheriff's Office	Statesville Police Department
Lee County Sheriff's Office	Orange County Sheriff's Office	Stokes County Sheriff's Office
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office	Pageland Police Department	Surry County Sheriff's Office
Lenoir Police Department	Pamlico County Sheriff's Office	Sylvia Police Department
Lexington Police Department	Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office	Tarboro Police Department
Lillington Police Department	Pembroke Police Department	Thomasville Police Department
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office	Pender County Sheriff's Office	Tyrrell County Sheriff's Office
Lincolnton Police Department	Perquimans County Sheriff's Office	Union County Sheriff's Office
Locust Police Department	Person County Sheriff's Office	Valdese Police Department
Lumberton Police Department	Pineville Police Department	Vance County Sheriff's Office
Macon County Sheriff's Office	Pinehurst Police Department	Wadesboro Police Department
Madison County Sheriff's Office	Pitt County Sheriff's Office	Wake County Sheriff's Office
Maggie Valley Police Department	Polk County Sheriff's Office	Wallace Police Department
Maiden Police Department	Raleigh Police Department	Warren County Sheriff's Office
Marshville Police Department	Randolph County Sheriff's Office	Washington Police Department
Matthews Police Department	Red Springs Police Department	Watauga County Sheriff's Office
McDowell County Sheriff's Office	Reidsville Police Department	Wayne County Sheriff's Office
Mint Hill Police Department	Richmond County Sheriff's Office	Waynesville Police Department
Mitchell County Sheriff's Office	Roanoke Rapids Police Department	West Jefferson Police Department
Monroe Police Department	Robeson County Sheriff's Office	Whiteville Police Department
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	Rockingham County Sheriff's Office	Wilkes County Sheriff's Office
Moore County Sheriff's Office	Rocky Mount Police Department	Wilmington Police Department
Mooresville Police Department	Rowan County Sheriff's Office	Wilson County Sheriff's Office
Morehead City Police Department	Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	Winston Salem Police Department
Morganton Police Department	Salisbury Police Department	Yadkin County Sheriff's Office
Morrisville Police Department	Sampson County Sheriff's Office	Yancey County Sheriff's Office
Mount Olive Police Department	Sanford Police Department	

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, program manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, statistical research assistants.

Thanks to Ghazaleh Samandari and Sharon Schiro for the analysis of the NC-VDRS data, and the writing and editing of this report. Thanks, also, to the many people at the CDC, University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Public Health and the N.C. Division of Public Health (NC-DPH) Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (IVPB) who provided input and editing assistance, including Becca Byrd, Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Holly Hill, Stephen Marshall and Scott Proescholdbell. We are grateful for the editorial assistance of Carol Schriber and graphic design of Tracey Jarrett for this publication. Thanks to Valerie Collins-Russell, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch head, and Sharon Rhyne, health promotion manager for the NC-DPH Chronic Disease and Injury Section, for their ongoing support of the NC-VDRS.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us during 2006. These groups are listed in Appendix C. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership and Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2006 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin and Anna Waller.

Section I: Overall Violent Deaths

Basic Characteristics of Violent Deaths

This section describes overall violent deaths in North Carolina residents in 2006. Table 1 provides an overview of violent deaths by basic demographic characteristics. Overall, 1,785 N.C. residents died as a result of violence in 2006. The results indicate that violent death is concentrated among certain populations:

- Men are three times more likely to die of violent death than women.
- Violent death rates are highest among American Indians.
- People ages 20-24 experience the highest rate of violent death.
- Infants (under age 1) have the highest rate of death among all children under 15.

Table 2 describes the different manners and methods of violent death.

- Suicide was the leading cause of death in 2006, accounting for 62% of all violent deaths.
- Homicide accounted for 33.6% of total violent deaths.
- Firearms (62.0%) were the primary method used in violent deaths, followed by poisoning (13.6%) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (11.2%).

Tables 3 and 4 provide detail on the educational attainment and marital status of violent death victims. Education information was obtained only for adults ages 18 or older. Findings show:

- The majority of victims completed a high school education (69.9%).
- Most adult victims of violent death were either married (37.8%) or never married (39.2%), as opposed to being widowed, separated or divorced.

The counties with the highest number and rates of violent death are listed in Tables 5 and 6. With the exception of Robeson and Rowan counties, the highest number of deaths occurred in counties with the largest populations. The highest rates of death are reported in counties with small populations. These numbers should be interpreted with some caution, as they are all small and subject to wide variation.

Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
Gender					
	Male	1,373	76.9	31.6	29.9 - 33.3
	Female	412	23.1	9.1	8.2 - 10.0
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	88	4.9	14.9	11.8 - 18.0
	Non-Hispanic	1,697	95.1	20.5	19.5 - 21.5
Race					
	American Indian	29	1.6	25.5	16.2 - 34.8
	Asian	12	0.7	6.8	2.9 - 10.6
	Black	440	24.7	22.5	20.4 - 24.6
	Pacific Islander	1	0.1	*	*
	White	1,297	72.7	19.6	18.5 - 20.7
	Other	4	0.2	*	
	Unknown	2	0.1	*	*
Age Group (yrs)					
	< 1	17	1.0	13.2	6.9 - 19.5
	1-4	13	0.7	2.7	1.3 - 4.1
	5-9	9	0.5	1.5	0.5 - 2.5
	10-14	14	0.8	2.4	1.2 - 3.6
	15-19	112	6.3	18.5	15.1 - 21.9
	20-24	213	11.9	34.9	30.2 - 39.6
	25-34	312	17.5	25.7	22.9 - 28.6
	35-44	356	19.9	26.9	24.1 - 29.7
	45-54	350	19.6	27.6	24.7 - 30.5
	55-64	187	10.5	19.2	16.5 - 21.9
	65-74	112	6.3	19.5	15.9 - 23.1
	75-84	64	3.6	17.5	13.2 - 21.8
	85 +	26	1.5	19.2	11.8 - 26.6
Total Deaths		1,785			

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	1,106	62.0
	Homicide	599	33.6
	Undetermined	42	2.4
	Legal intervention	24	1.3
	Unintentional firearm	14	0.8
Method			
	Firearm	1,103	62.0
	Poisoning	243	13.6
	Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	200	11.2
	Sharp instrument	88	4.9
	Unarmed assault	38	2.1
	Blunt instrument	37	2.1
	Fire/ Burns	18	1.0
	Fall	12	0.7
	Drowning	10	0.6
	Other transport vehicle	10	0.6
	Motor vehicle	8	0.5
	Violent shaking	7	0.4
	Unknown	3	0.2
	Other	3	0.2
	More than one method	2	0.1
Total Deaths		1,785	

Note: "Other transport vehicle" includes planes, trains, and boats.

Table 3: Years of Education Completed for Adult Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	125	7.4
9-11	362	21.5
12	704	41.8
> 12	474	28.1
Unknown	21	1.3
Total Deaths	1,686	

Table 4: Marital Status of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Marital Status		
Married	675	37.8
Never Married	700	39.2
Separated/ Divorced	328	18.4
Widowed	79	4.4
Unknown	3	0.2
Total Deaths	1,785	

Figure 1: Map of Violent Death Counts by N.C. Counties, 2006

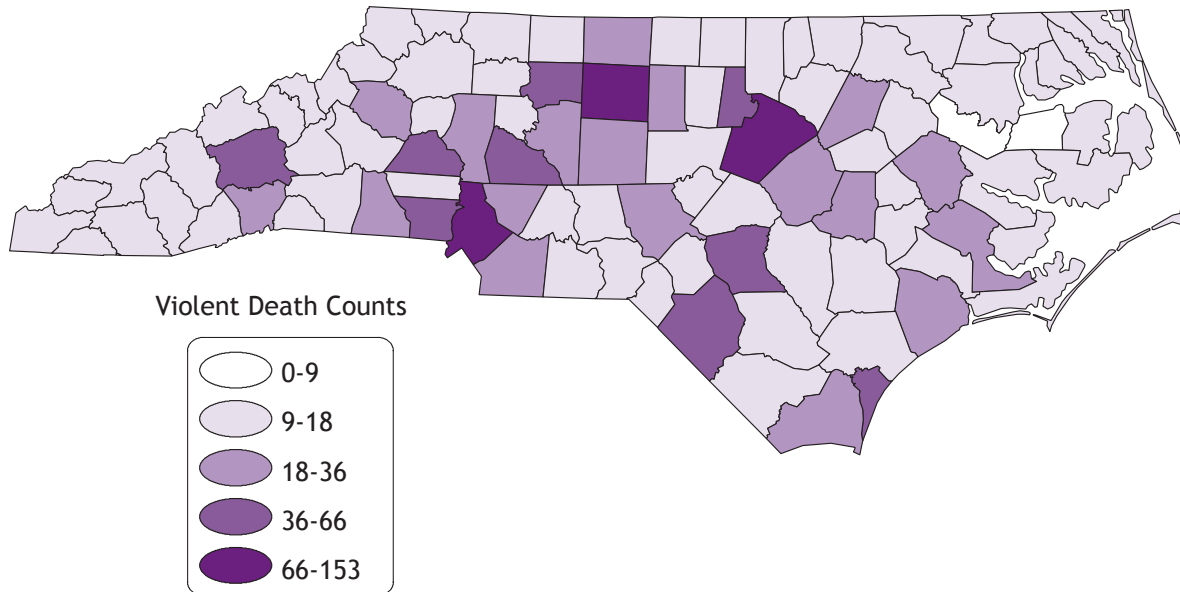


Figure 2: Map of Violent Death Rates by N.C. Counties, 2006

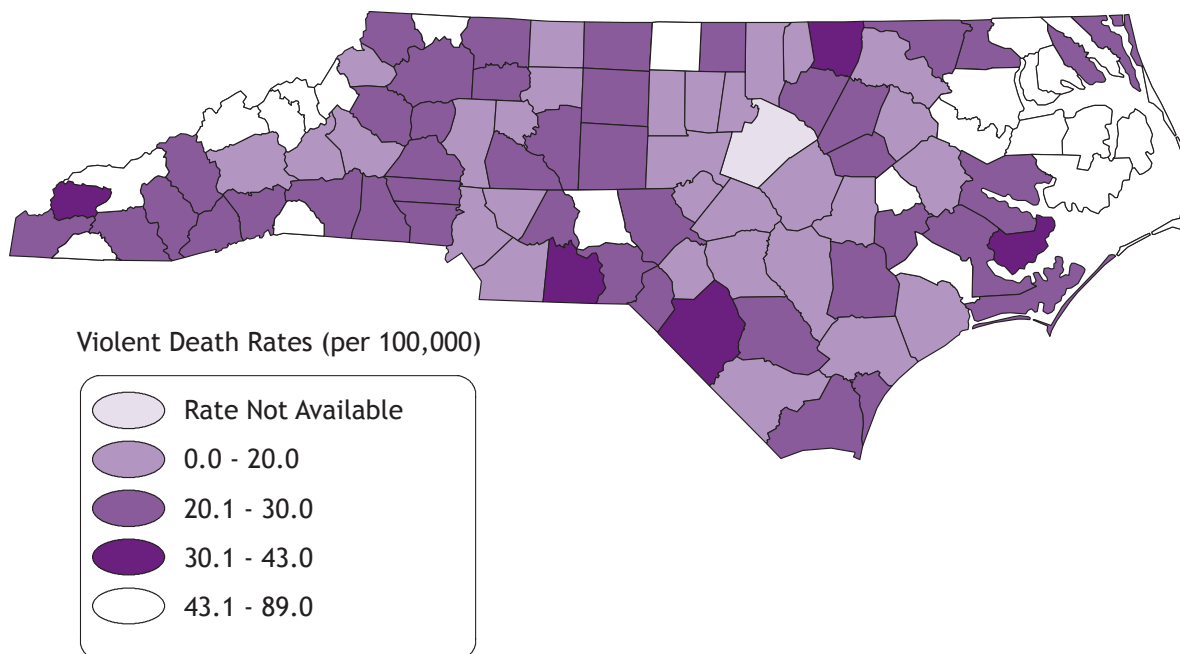


Table 5: N.C. Counties with the Highest Number of Violent Deaths, 2006

	Number	County Population	Rank Order of County by Population Size
County			
Mecklenburg	153	835,328	1
Guilford	101	455,923	3
Wake	87	794,129	2
Forsyth	66	331,962	4
Cumberland	62	307,486	5
Robeson	46	127,067	21
New Hanover	44	187,227	9
Rowan	43	135,487	20
Buncombe	43	222,949	7
Durham	42	250,152	6

Table 6: N.C. Counties with the Highest Violent Death Rates, 2006

	Number	County Population	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
County				
Robeson	46	127,067	36.2	25.7 - 46.7
Pasquotank	14	39,518	35.4	16.8 - 54.0
Anson	11	25,303	43.5	17.8 - 69.2
Warren	11	19,429	56.6	23.1 - 90.1
Graham	7	7,946	88.1	22.8 - 153.4
Pamlico	5	12,559	39.8	4.9 - 74.7
Alleghany	4	10,843	*	*
Camden	4	9,210	*	*
Hyde	2	5,223	*	*
Tyrrell	2	4,162	*	*

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Race and Age by Gender of Violent Death Victims

This report looks at the gender of victims of violent deaths by race and age group.

Figure 3 and Table 7 describe the differences between male and female violent deaths by race:

- For all races, the incidence of violent death is higher among males than among females.
- The rate of violent death among males is highest for blacks (38.8 per 100,000), followed by American Indians (37.4 per 100,000) and whites (29.9 per 100,000).
- Among females, the rate of violent death is highest for American Indians (13.9 per 100,000), followed by whites (9.5 per 100,000) and then blacks (7.9 per 100,000).

The rates for American Indians and Asians, particularly females, should be interpreted with caution as the total numbers are small.

In terms of overall deaths by age groups, both males and females experience high rates of violent death among the 20-24, 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54 age groups (Figure 4, Table 8). However, for males, the rate of violent death is also high among older groups. For women, the rate of violent death begins to decline after age 54.

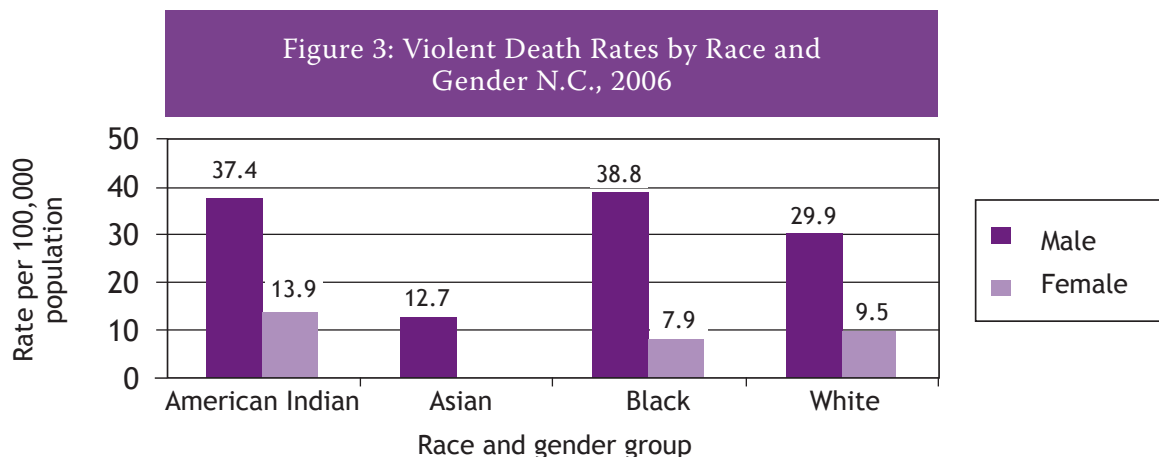


Table 7: Violent Death Rates, Race by Gender, N.C., 2006

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	21	1.5	37.4	21.4 - 53.3	8	1.9	13.9	4.3 - 23.5	29	1.6
Asian	11	0.8	12.7	5.2 - 20.1	1	0.2	*	*	12	0.7
Black	358	26.1	38.8	34.8 - 42.9	82	20.0	7.9	6.2 - 9.6	440	24.6
White	981	71.5	29.9	28.1 - 31.8	316	76.9	9.5	8.4 - 10.5	1,297	72.7
Other/Unknown	2	0.1	*	*	5	1.2	*	*	7	0.4
Total Deaths	1,373				412				1,785	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Figure 4: Violent Death Rates by Age Group N.C., 2006

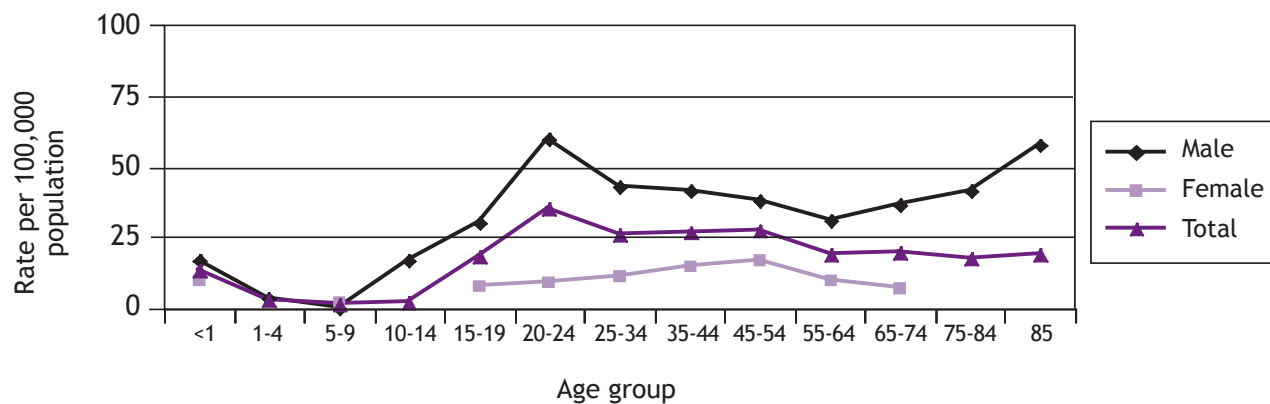


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

Age Group	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%
< 1	11	0.8	16.8	6.9 - 26.7	6	1.5	9.6	2.0 - 17.3	17	1.0
1-4	9	0.7	3.6	1.3 - 6.0	4	1.0	*	*	13	0.7
5-9	2	0.1	*	*	7	1.7	2.4	0.6 - 4.2	9	0.5
10-14	12	0.9	4.0	1.8 - 6.3	2	0.5	*	*	14	0.8
15-19	90	6.6	28.9	22.9 - 34.9	22	5.3	7.4	4.3 - 10.5	112	6.3
20-24	187	13.6	57.5	49.3 - 65.8	26	6.3	9.1	5.6 - 12.6	213	11.9
25-34	245	17.8	40.5	35.4 - 45.6	67	16.3	11.0	8.4 - 13.6	312	17.5
35-44	261	19.0	39.7	34.9 - 44.5	95	23.1	14.3	11.4 - 17.2	356	20.0
45-54	245	17.8	39.8	34.8 - 44.8	105	25.5	16.1	13.0 - 19.2	350	19.6
55-64	140	10.2	30.1	25.1 - 35.1	47	11.4	9.2	6.6 - 11.8	187	10.5
65-74	91	6.6	35.1	27.9 - 42.3	21	5.1	6.7	3.9 - 9.6	112	6.3
75-84	57	4.2	39.6	29.3 - 49.9	7	1.7	3.1	0.8 - 5.4	64	3.6
85+	23	1.7	57.5	34.0 - 81.0	3	0.7	*	*	26	1.5
Total Deaths	1,373				412				1,785	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Section II: Suicide

Basic Characteristics of Suicide Deaths

This section describes suicide deaths in North Carolina residents in 2006. Suicides are only classified among violent deaths for individuals ages 10 or older. Table 9 reports the basic demographic characteristics of suicide victims. A total of 1,106 North Carolina residents died of suicide in 2006.

Findings show that:

- Men (19.7 per 100,000) are more than three times as likely to die of suicide than are women (5.5 per 100,000).
- Rates of suicide are highest among whites (15.0 per 100,000).
- Rates of suicide are fairly consistent among adult age groups, but are highest among ages 45-54 (20.9 per 100,000) and 85+ (18.4 per 100,000).

Table 10 describes the methods used to commit suicide:

- Firearms (59.3%) are the leading method of suicide.
- Poisonings (19.4) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (16.4) are the 2nd and 3rd most common methods of suicide.

Tables 11 and 12 describe the education (for ages 18 or older) and marital status of suicide victims:

- 74.2% of suicide victims completed a high school education.
- Most victims of suicide were married (44.5%) at the time of death.

The counties with the three highest numbers of suicide deaths were Mecklenburg (n=71), Guilford (n=60) and Wake (n=56) counties (See Table 13). Among the ten counties with the highest number of suicide deaths, the highest rates of suicide were in Rowan (24.4 per 100,000); Catawba (19.6 per 100,000); and Buncombe (13.9 per 100,000) counties.

Table 9: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
Gender					
	Male	855	77.3	19.7	18.4 - 21.0
	Female	251	22.7	5.5	4.9 - 6.2
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	26	2.4	0.3	0.2 - 0.4
	Non-Hispanic	1,080	97.7	182.4	171.5 - 193.3
Race					
	American Indian	9	0.8	7.9	2.7 - 13.1
	Asian	8	0.7	4.5	1.4 - 7.6
	Black	93	8.4	4.8	3.8 - 5.7
	Pacific Islander	1	0.1	*	*
	White	994	89.9	15.0	14.1 - 16.0
	Other/ Unknown	1	0.1	*	*
Age Group					
	10-14	7	0.6	1.2	0.3 - 2.1
	15-19	47	4.3	7.7	5.5 - 10.0
	20-24	101	9.1	16.6	13.3 - 19.8
	25-34	156	14.1	12.8	10.8 - 14.9
	35-44	215	19.4	16.2	14.1 - 18.4
	45-54	265	24.0	20.9	18.4 - 23.5
	55-64	142	12.8	14.6	12.2 - 16.9
	65-74	91	8.2	15.8	12.6 - 19.1
	75-84	57	5.2	15.6	11.5 - 19.6
	85 +	25	2.3	18.4	11.2 - 52.7
Total Deaths		1,106			

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Table 10: Method Used by Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Method		
Firearm	656	59.3
Poisoning	214	19.4
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	181	16.4
Sharp instrument	13	1.2
Fire/ Burns	11	1.0
Other transport vehicle	10	0.9
Fall	8	0.7
Drowning	7	0.6
Motor vehicle	4	0.4
Other	2	0.2
Total	1,106	

Table 11: Years of Education Completed for Adult Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	77	7.1
9-11	191	17.7
12	440	40.7
> 12	362	33.5
Unknown	10	0.9
Total Deaths	1,080	

Table 12: Marital Status of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Marital Status		
Married	492	44.5
Never married	322	29.1
Separated/ Divorced	229	20.7
Widowed	61	5.5
Unknown	2	0.2
Total Deaths	1,106	

Figure 5: Map of Suicide Counts by N.C. Counties, 2006

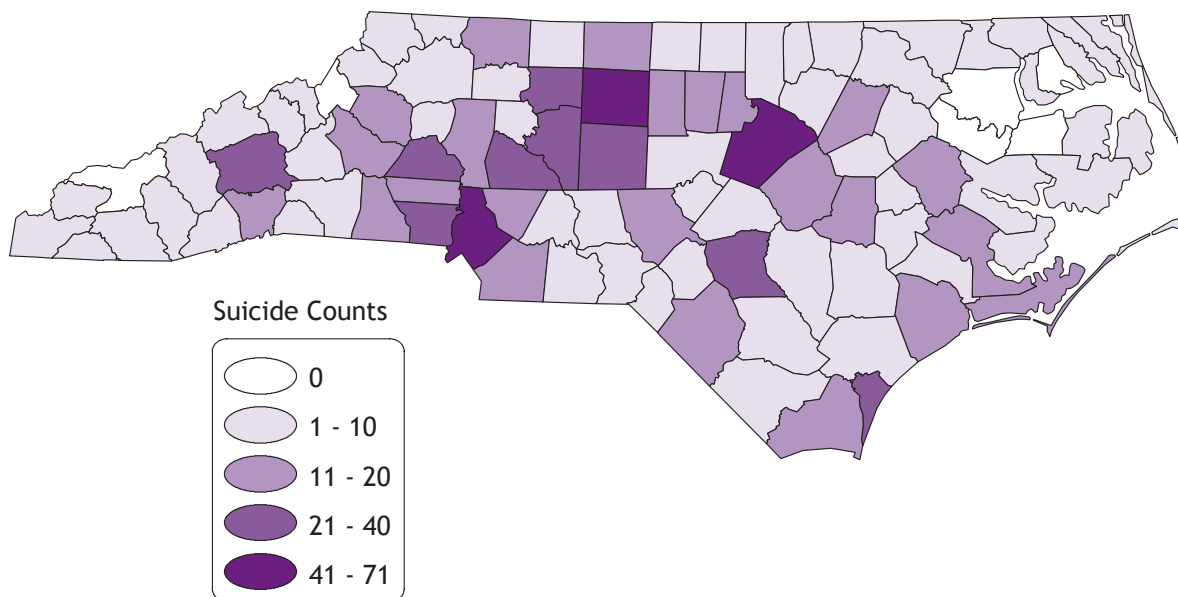


Figure 6: Map of Suicide Rates by N.C. Counties, 2006

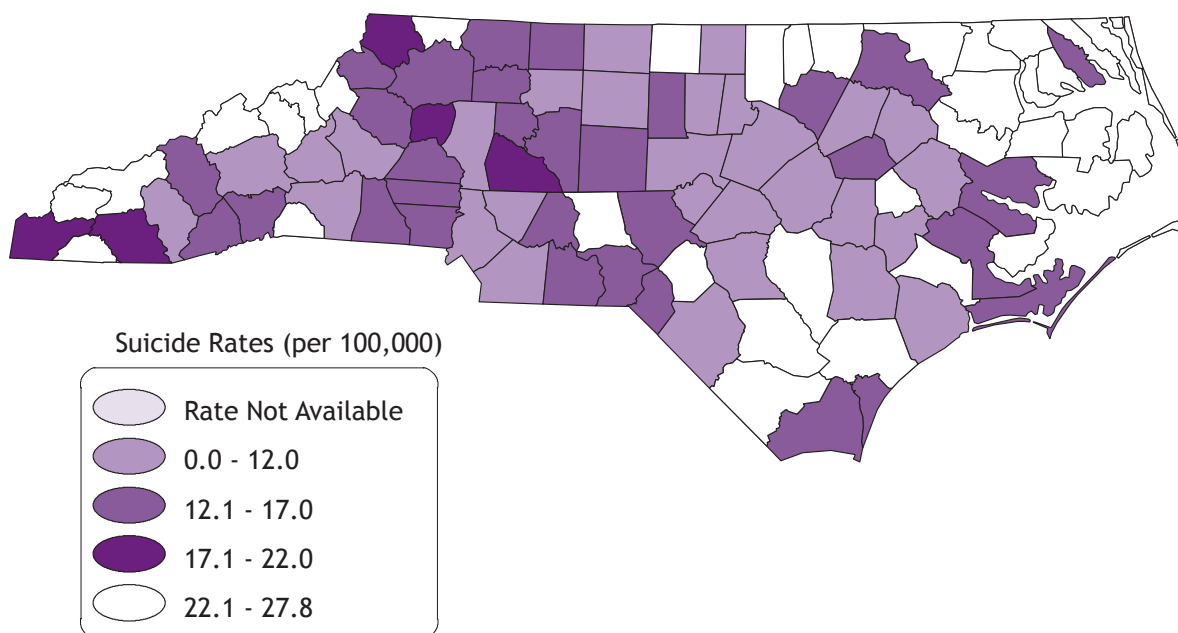


Table 13: N.C. Counties with the Highest Number of Suicides, 2006

	Number	County Population	Rank Order of County by Population Size	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
County					
Mecklenburg	71	835,328	1	8.5	6.5 - 10.5
Guilford	60	455,923	3	13.2	9.9 - 16.5
Wake	56	794,129	2	7.1	5.3 - 8.9
Forsyth	39	331,962	4	11.7	8.0 - 15.4
Gaston	35	198,003	8	17.7	11.8 - 23.6
Rowan	33	135,487	20	24.4	16.1 - 32.7
Cumberland	31	307,486	5	10.1	6.6 - 13.6
New Hanover	31	187,227	9	16.6	10.8 - 22.4
Buncombe	31	222,949	7	13.9	9.0 - 18.8
Catawba	30	153,112	14	19.6	12.6 - 26.6

Race and Age by Gender of Suicide Victims

This section examines suicide deaths in terms of gender differences among different races and age groups.

Figure 7 and Table 14 describe the differences between male and female suicides by race:

- For all races, the rate of suicide is higher among males than among females (note: rates are not available for all races due to small death counts).
- The rate of suicide among males is highest for whites (23.4 per 100,000)
- Among females, the rate of suicide is also highest among whites (6.8 per 100,000)
- The second highest rates of male and female suicide was among blacks (8.2 and 1.6 per 100,000, respectively)

In all age groups the rate of suicide is significantly higher among males than among females (Figure 8, Table 15). For males, the rate of suicide is highest among older groups including those ages 85+ (57.5 per 100,000); 75-84 (35.4 per 100,000); and 45-54 (31.4 per 100,000). For females the rate of suicide is highest among those ages 45-54 (11.1 per 100,000); 35-44 (9.3 per 100,000); and 55-64 (7.6 per 100,000), respectively.

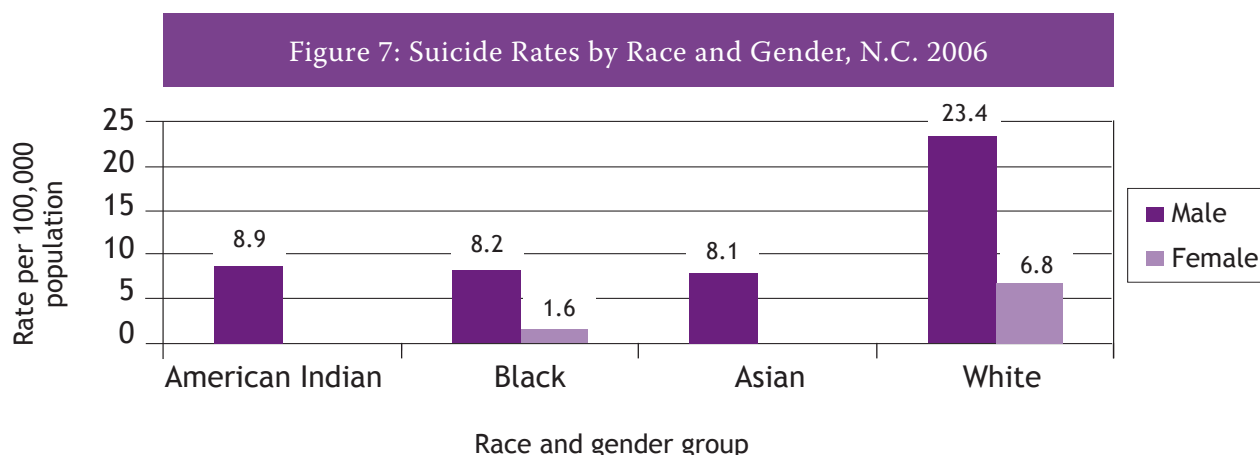


Table 14: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	5	0.6	8.9	1.1 - 16.7	4	0.4	*	*	9	0.8
Asian	7	0.8	8.1	2.1 - 14.0	1	1.6	*	*	8	0.7
Black	76	8.9	8.2	6.4 - 10.1	17	6.8	1.6	0.9 - 2.4	93	8.4
Pacific Islander	0	0.0	*	*	1	0.4	*	*	1	0.1
White	766	89.6	23.4	21.7 - 25.0	228	90.8	6.8	5.9 - 7.7	994	89.9
Other/Unknown	1	0.1	*	*	0	0.0	*		1	0.1
Total Deaths	855		19.7		251		5.5		1,106	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

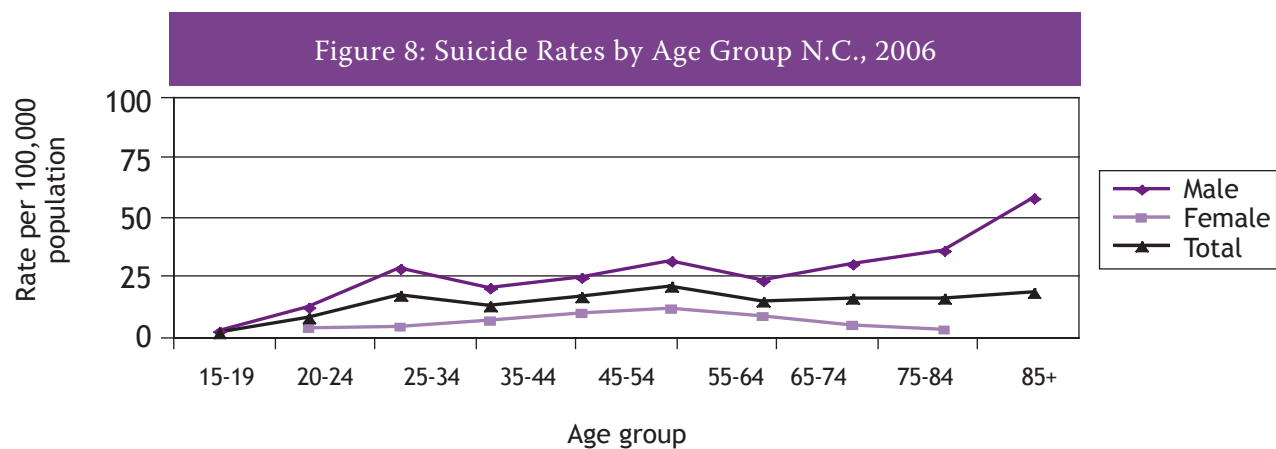


Table 15: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%
Age Group										
10-14	5	0.6	1.7	0.3 - 3.2	2	0.8	*	*	7	0.6
15-19	37	4.3	11.9	8.1 - 15.7	10	4.0	3.4	1.3 - 5.5	47	4.2
20-24	91	10.6	28.0	22.3 - 33.8	10	4.0	3.5	1.3 - 5.5	101	9.1
25-34	121	14.2	20.0	16.4 - 23.6	35	13.9	5.8	3.9 - 7.7	156	14.1
35-44	153	17.9	23.3	19.6 - 27.0	62	24.7	9.3	7.0 - 11.6	215	19.4
45-54	193	22.6	31.4	27.0 - 35.8	72	28.7	11.1	8.5 - 13.7	265	24.0
55-64	103	12.6	22.2	17.0 - 26.5	39	15.5	7.6	5.2 - 10.0	142	12.8
65-74	78	9.1	30.1	23.4 - 36.8	13	5.2	4.1	1.9 - 6.3	91	8.2
75-84	51	6.0	35.4	25.7 - 45.2	6	2.4	2.7	0.5 - 4.9	57	5.2
85 +	23	2.7	57.5	34.0 - 81.0	2	0.8	*	*	25	2.3
Total Deaths	855				251				1,106	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Circumstances of Suicides

The NC-VDRS collects and compiles data on the circumstances surrounding suicide events, based on data available from law enforcement and medical examiner reports. Circumstances range over a number of possibilities, and each victim can have more than one circumstance associated with his or her suicide. Therefore, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of suicide deaths. Note: circumstance data may not be available for all victims. For 2006, of all suicides, 1,038 (93.9%) had at least one circumstance identified as being associated with the death.

Table 16 provides data on circumstances of suicide victims by gender, while Table 17 tallies the most common circumstances of suicide for each age group. Findings indicate that:

- For males, 45.3% were identified as being in a depressed mood at the time of their death, 40.8% had been treated for a mental illness, 39.8% were noted to have been diagnosed with a mental health problem, and 38.9% of the victims were reported to have suffered a crisis within two weeks of their death. This crisis was most often related to problems with an intimate partner (25.3%).
- Among females, 61.8% had been treated for a mental illness, 61.0% had a current mental health problem, 60.2% were currently in mental health treatment, 40.6% were reported to have been in a depressed mood at the time of death, and 29.9% left a note.
- For victims ages 55-64, 54.9% were described as being in a depressed mood prior to their death.
- Victims ages 10-24 were most likely to have suffered a crisis within the two weeks before their death.

Table 16: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Ever treated for mental illness	349	40.8	155	61.8	504	45.6
Current mental health problem	340	39.8	153	61.0	493	44.6
Current depressed mood	387	45.3	102	40.6	489	44.2
Current mental health treatment	325	38.0	151	60.2	476	43.0
Crisis in past two weeks	333	38.9	73	29.1	406	36.7
Left a suicide note	229	26.8	75	29.9	304	27.5
Intimate partner problem	216	25.3	51	20.3	267	24.1
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	179	20.9	47	18.7	226	20.4
Physical health problem	147	17.2	39	15.5	186	16.8
History of suicide attempts	103	12.0	72	28.7	175	15.8
Alcohol problem	107	12.5	30	12.0	137	12.4
Other substance problem	95	11.1	38	15.1	133	12.0
Other relationship problem	70	8.2	20	8.0	90	8.1
Recent criminal/legal problem	80	9.4	5	2.0	85	7.7
Job problem	67	7.8	9	3.6	76	6.9
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	55	6.4	5	2.0	60	5.4
Financial problem	52	6.1	7	2.8	59	5.3
Other death of friend/family	37	4.3	9	3.6	46	4.2
Other legal problems	23	2.7	5	2.0	28	2.5
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	11	1.3	3	1.2	14	1.3
School problem	6	0.7	0	0.0	6	0.5
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0.0	4	1.6	4	0.4

Table 17: Most Common Suicide Circumstances by Age Group in N.C., 2006

Age Group																							
	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Circumstance																							
Ever treated for mental illness	3	42.9	14	29.8	41	40.6	70	44.9	113	52.6	132	49.8	68	47.9	37	40.7	18	31.6	8	32.0	504	45.6	
Current mental health problem	3	43.9	13	28.3	39	39.4	68	44.2	110	52.1	130	49.4	68	47.9	37	40.7	17	29.8	8	32.0	493	45.0	
Current depressed mood	3	42.9	13	27.7	46	45.5	63	40.4	83	38.6	126	47.5	78	54.9	36	39.6	31	54.4	10	40.0	489	44.2	
Current treatment for mental illness	3	42.7	13	27.7	36	35.6	67	42.9	107	49.8	126	47.5	66	46.5	34	37.4	18	31.6	6	24.0	476	43.0	
Crisis in past two weeks	3	42.9	23	48.9	47	46.5	73	46.8	76	35.3	83	31.3	47	33.1	27	29.7	19	33.3	8	32.0	406	36.7	
Person left a suicide note	1	14.3	10	21.3	24	23.8	41	26.3	51	23.7	92	34.7	41	28.7	26	28.6	12	21.1	6	24.0	304	27.5	
Intimate partner problem contributed	1	14.3	11	23.4	35	34.7	57	36.5	61	28.4	64	24.2	21	14.8	13	14.3	2	3.5	2	8.0	267	24.1	
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	4	57.1	7	14.9	23	22.8	31	19.9	49	22.8	50	18.9	34	23.9	14	15.4	8	14.0	6	24.0	226	20.4	
Physical health problem contributed	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.0	2	1.3	18	8.4	35	13.2	44	31.0	38	41.8	34	59.6	13	52.0	186	16.8	
History of suicide attempts	3	42.9	4	8.5	14	13.7	37	23.7	43	20.0	49	18.5	18	12.7	3	3.3	4	7.0	0	0.0	175	15.8	
Alcohol problem	0	0.0	3	6.4	11	10.9	21	13.5	27	12.6	48	18.1	19	13.4	5	5.5	3	5.3	0	0.0	137	12.4	

continued

Table 17: Most Common Suicide Circumstances by Age Group in N.C., 2006, continued

Age Group																							
Circumstance	10-14		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Other substance problem	0	0.0	7	14.9	19	18.8	34	21.8	35	16.3	28	10.6	8	5.6	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	133	12.0	
Other relationship problem contributed	3	42.9	11	23.4	12	11.9	19	12.2	17	7.9	15	5.7	8	5.6	0	0.0	4	7.0	1	4.0	90	8.1	
Recent criminal legal problem contributed	1	14.3	6	12.8	12	11.9	21	13.5	13	6.0	27	10.2	4	2.8	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	85	7.7	
Job problem contributed	0	0.0	1	2.1	6	5.9	12	7.7	18	8.4	26	9.8	11	7.7	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	76	6.9	
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month contributed	0	0.0	2	4.3	8	7.9	14	9.0	16	7.4	11	4.2	3	2.1	5	5.5	1	1.8	0	0.0	60	5.4	
Financial problem contributed	0	0.0	2	4.3	3	2.0	5	3.2	12	5.6	19	7.2	13	9.2	3	3.3	1	1.8	1	4.0	59	5.3	
Other death of friend/family contributed	1	14.3	0	0.0	2	2.0	2	1.3	6	2.8	12	4.5	7	4.9	8	8.8	8	14.0	0	0.0	46	4.2	
Other legal problems contributed	0	0.0	1	2.1	1	1.0	7	4.5	9	4.2	7	2.6	2	1.4	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	2.5	
Suicide of friend or family in past 5 years contributed	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	5.0	2	1.3	4	1.9	0	0.0	2	1.4	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	1.2	
School problem contributed	1	14.3	3	6.4	1	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.5	
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month contributed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.5	2	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.4	

Veteran Suicides

Due to the large number of military bases located in North Carolina, this state has a large population of veterans. Therefore, we have dedicated a special section to examining suicide among military veterans who live in North Carolina. For the purposes of this report, a veteran is anyone who has served in the Armed Forces. In 2006, 224 veterans committed suicide. Note: circumstance data may not be available for all victims.

The basic demographic and suicide circumstance data from Tables 18 and 19 show:

- Veteran suicides are concentrated almost entirely among males (98.7%).
- The vast majority of veteran suicide victims are white (93.3%).
- Most of the veteran suicide victims were age 45 or older at the time of death.
- The primary method of veteran suicide is the use of firearms (76.3%).
- Half of all veteran suicide victims were described as being in a depressed mood prior to their death.
- Over 40% of the veteran suicide victims had been diagnosed with a current mental health problem, and 43.8% were noted to have had a history of treatment for a mental illness.

Table 18: Gender, Race, and Method of Fatal Injury of Veteran Suicide Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%
Gender			
	Male	221	98.7
	Female	3	1.3
Race			
	Asian	1	0.5
	Black	14	6.7
	White	209	93.3
Age Group			
	18-19	2	0.9
	20-24	11	4.9
	25-34	16	7.1
	35-44	25	11.2
	45-54	42	18.8
	55-64	42	18.8
	65-74	37	16.5
	75-84	37	16.5
	85 +	12	5.4
Method			
	Firearm	171	76.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, or Asphyxiation	25	11.2
	Poisoning	23	10.3
	Fall	3	1.3
	Sharp or Blunt Instrument	2	0.9
Total Deaths		224	

continued

Age Group																				
Circumstance	18-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ever treated for mental illness	0	0.0	4	36.4	6	32.5	16	64.0	25	59.5	20	47.6	12	32.4	12	32.4	3	25.0	98	43.8
Current mental health problem	0	0.0	3	30.0	6	37.5	15	62.5	26	59.5	20	57.6	12	32.4	11	29.7	3	25.0	95	42.8
Current treatment for mental illness	0	0.0	3	27.3	6	37.5	15	60.0	22	52.4	19	45.2	11	29.7	12	32.4	2	16.7	90	40.2
Crisis in past two weeks	0	0.0	7	63.6	7	43.8	7	28.0	10	23.8	15	35.7	10	27.0	15	40.5	6	50.0	77	34.4
Physical health problem	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	8.0	3	7.1	13	31.0	15	40.5	24	64.9	9	75.0	66	29.5
Person left a suicide note	1	50.0	2	18.2	3	18.8	6	24.0	18	42.9	12	28.6	10	27.0	7	18.9	1	8.3	60	26.8
Intimate partner problem	0	0.0	7	63.6	10	62.5	9	36.0	7	16.7	7	16.7	7	18.9	1	2.7	2	16.7	50	22.3
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	0	0.0	2	18.2	0	0.0	4	16.0	10	23.8	10	23.8	7	18.9	5	13.5	3	25.0	41	18.3
Alcohol problem	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	6.3	4	16.0	7	16.7	6	14.3	2	5.4	3	8.1	0	0.0	23	10.3
History of suicide attempts	0	0.0	1	9.1	3	18.8	0	0.0	9	21.4	3	7.1	0	0.0	3	8.1	0	0.0	19	8.5
Other death of friend/family	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	12.0	5	11.9	1	2.4	4	10.8	5	13.5	0	0.0	18	8.0
Job problem	0	0.0	2	18.2	1	6.3	5	20.0	4	9.5	2	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	6.3

SECTION 2

Table 19: Most Common Veteran Suicide Circumstances in N.C. by Age Group, 2006, continued

[illegible]

Section III: Homicide

Basic Characteristics of Homicide Deaths

This section describes homicide deaths of North Carolina residents in 2006. A total of 599 North Carolina residents died of homicide in 2006. Table 20 shows that:

- Men (10.6 per 100,000) were more than 3 times as likely to be victims of homicide than were women (3.0 per 100,000).
- Rates of homicide were highest among blacks and American Indians (16.8 and 16.7 per 100,000, respectively).
- Rates of homicide were highest among those ages 20-24 (17.1 per 100,000); under 1 year (13.2 per 100,000); and 25-34 (12.0 per 100,000).

Table 21 describes the methods used in homicide:

- Firearms were used in the majority of homicides (68.5%).
- Sharp instrument (12.4%) and unarmed assault (6.3%) followed as the 2nd and 3rd most common methods of homicide.

The education level (for victims age 18 and over) and marital status of homicide victims are described in Tables 22 and 23:

- 61.3% of adult homicide victims had completed a high school education.
- The majority of homicide victims were never married (57.4%).

The three counties with the highest numbers of homicide deaths were Mecklenburg (n=75); Guilford (n=39); and Robeson (n=30) counties (See Table 24). Among the 10 counties with the highest number of homicide deaths, the highest rates of homicide were in Robeson (23.6 per 100,000); Nash (16.4 per 100,000); and Cumberland (9.4 deaths per 100,000) counties.

Table 20: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
Gender					
	Male	461	77.0	10.6	9.6 - 11.6
	Female	138	23.0	3.0	2.5 - 3.6
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	61	10.2	10.3	7.7 - 12.9
	Non-Hispanic	538	89.8	6.5	6.0 - 7.0
Race					
	American Indian	19	3.2	16.7	9.2 - 24.2
	Asian	4	0.7	*	*
	Black	329	54.9	16.8	15.0 - 18.6
	White	242	40.4	3.7	3.2 - 4.1
	Other	4	0.7	*	*
	Unknown	1	0.1	*	*
Age Group					
	< 1	17	2.8	13.2	6.9 - 19.5
	1-4	10	1.7	2.0	0.7 - 3.3
	5-9	7	1.2	1.2	0.3 - 2.1
	10-14	6	1.0	1.0	0.2 - 1.8
	15-19	56	9.4	9.2	6.8 - 11.6
	20-24	104	17.4	17.1	13.8 - 20.4
	25-34	146	24.4	12.0	10.0 - 14.0
	35-44	126	21.0	9.5	7.8 - 11.2
	45-54	63	10.5	5.0	3.8 - 6.2
	55-64	39	6.5	4.0	2.7 - 5.3
	65-74	18	3.0	3.1	1.7 - 4.5
	75-84	6	1.0	1.6	0.3 - 2.9
	85 +	1	0.2	0.7	*
Total Deaths		599			

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Table 21: Method of Homicide in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Method		
Firearm	410	68.5
Sharp instrument	75	12.4
Unarmed assault	38	6.3
Blunt instrument	36	6.0
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	18	3.0
Violent shaking	7	1.2
Fire/ Burns	5	0.8
Motor vehicle	3	0.5
More than one method	2	0.2
Poisoning	2	0.3
Unknown	2	0.3
Fall	1	0.2
Other	1	0.2
Total	599	

Table 22: Years of Education Completed for Adult Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	42	8.0
9-11	155	28.9
12	243	45.3
> 12	86	16.0
Unknown	9	1.7
Total Deaths	536	

Table 23: Marital Status of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Marital Status		
Married	151	25.2
Never Married	344	57.4
Separated/ Divorced	87	14.5
Widowed	16	2.7
Unknown	1	0.2
Total Deaths	599	

Figure 9: Map of Homicide Counts by N.C. Counties, 2006

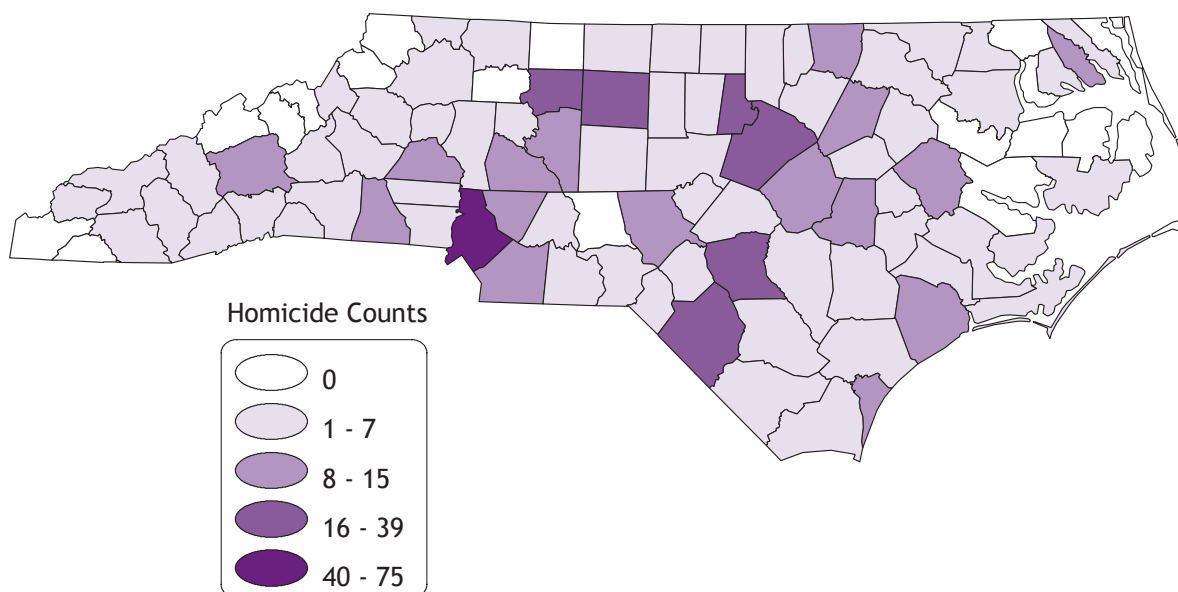


Figure 10: Map of Homicide Rates by N.C. Counties, 2006

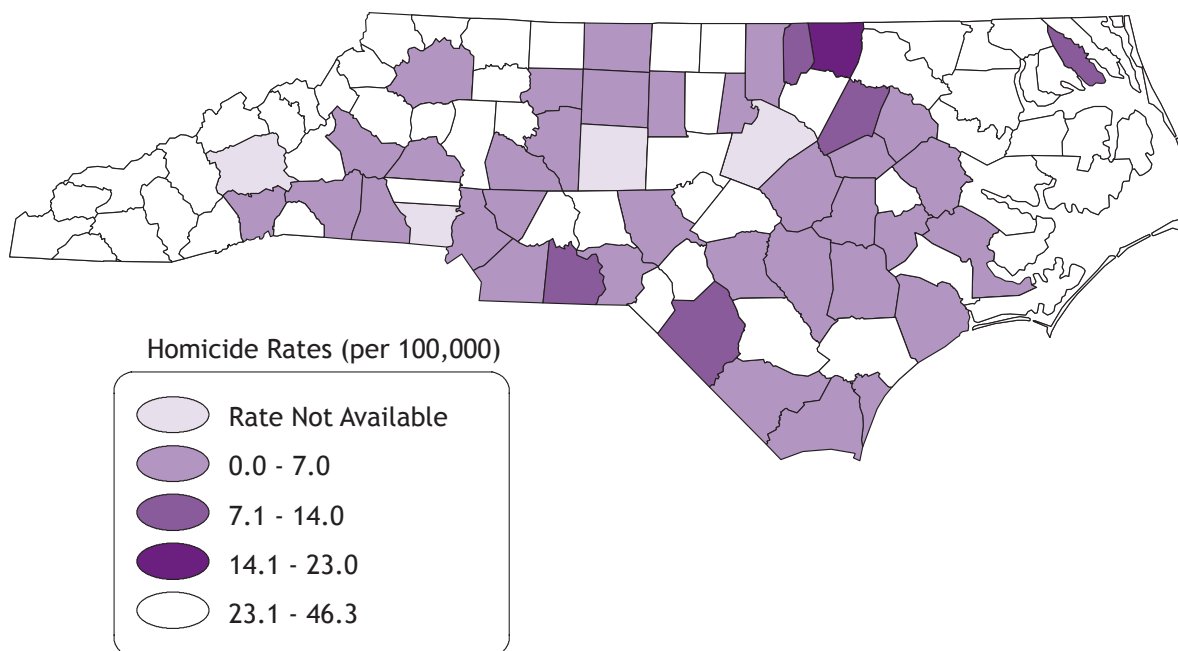


Table 24: N.C. Counties with the Highest Number of Homicides, 2006

	Number	County Population	Rank Order of County by Population Size	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
County					
Mecklenburg	75	835,328	1	9.0	7.0 - 11.0
Guilford	39	455,923	3	8.6	5.9 - 11.3
Robeson	30	187,227	21	23.6	15.2 - 32.0
Cumberland	29	307,486	5	9.4	6.0 - 12.8
Forsyth	24	331,962	4	7.2	4.3 - 10.1
Wake	24	794,129	2	3.0	1.8 - 4.2
Durham	21	250,152	6	8.4	4.8 - 12.0
Nash	15	198,003	30	16.4	8.1 - 24.7
Union	14	135,487	10	8.1	3.8 - 12.4
Pitt	12	153,112	16	8.1	3.5 - 12.7

Race and Age by Gender of Homicide Victims

This section examines homicide deaths in terms of gender differences among different races and age groups of victims.

Figure 11 and Table 25 describe the differences between male and female homicides by race:

- For all races, except black, the rate of homicide is higher among males than among females. (Note: Rates are not available for all races due to small death counts.)
- Among both males and females, the rate of homicide is highest among blacks (29.1 and 5.9 per 100,000, respectively).
- The rate of homicide is also high among American Indian males (26.7 per 100,000); however, this rate should be interpreted cautiously, due to the small death count.

Figure 12 and Table 26 describe gender differences in homicide by age groups:

- Homicide rates among males ages 15-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-44, and 55-64 are significantly higher than rates of homicide among females in the same age categories.
- For males, the rate of homicide is highest in the 20-24 age group.
- For females, the rate of homicide is highest among those ages under 1 year (9.6 per 100,000) and 20-24 years (5.6 per 100,000). However, the rate of homicide for the <1 age group should be interpreted with caution due to the small death count.

Figure 11: Homicide Rates by Race and Gender, 2006

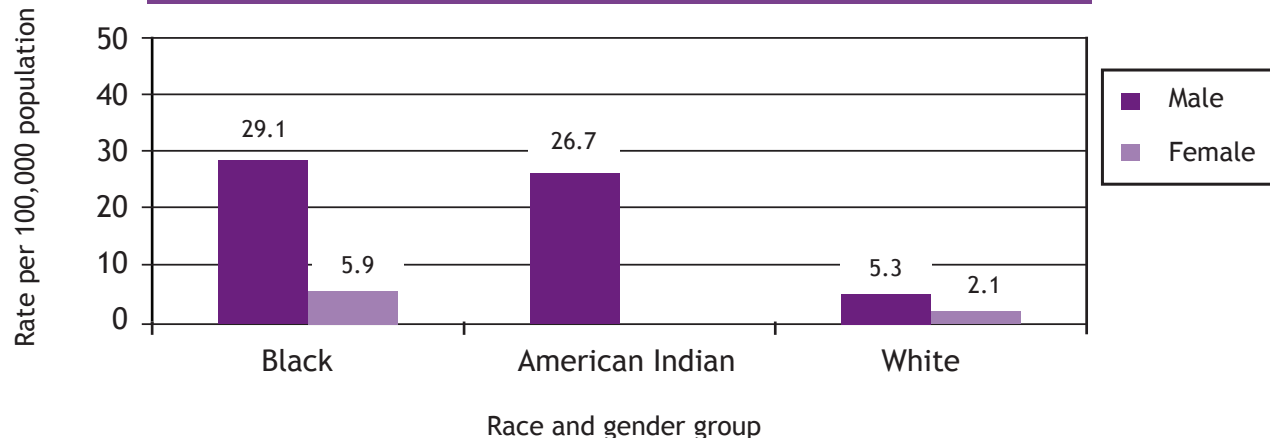
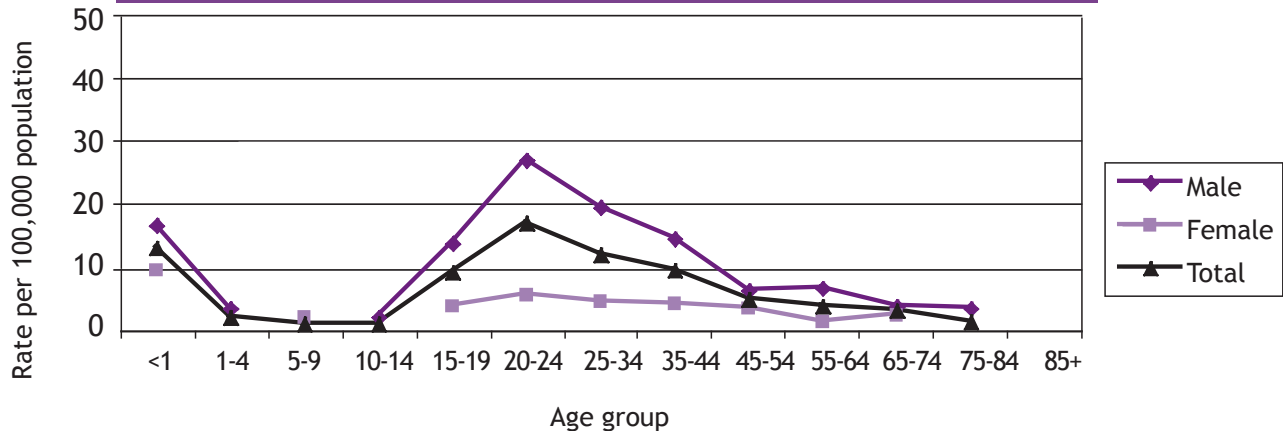


Table 25: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%
Race										
American Indian	15	3.3	26.7	13.2 - 40.2	4	2.9	*	*	19	3.2
Asian	4	0.9	*	*	0	0.0	*		4	0.7
Black	268	58.1	29.1	25.6 - 32.6	61	44.2	5.9	4.4 - 7.4	329	54.9
White	173	37.5	5.3	4.5 - 6.1	69	50.0	2.1	1.6 - 2.6	242	40.4
Other / Unknown	1	0.2	*	*	4	2.9	*	*	5	0.8
Total Deaths	461				138				599	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Figure 12: Homicide Rates by Age Group N.C., 2006



Note: Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of death is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Table 26: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

Age Group	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%	Rate	95% C.I.	Number	%
< 1	11	2.4	16.8	6.9 - 26.7	6	4.4	9.6	2.0 - 17.3	17	2.8
1-4	9	2.0	3.6	1.3 - 6.0	1	0.7	*	*	10	1.7
5-9	1	0.2	*	*	6	4.4	2.1	0.4 - 3.8	7	1.2
10-14	6	1.3	2.0	0.4 - 3.6	0	0.0	*	*	6	1.0
15-19	44	9.5	14.1	9.9 - 18.3	12	8.7	4.1	1.8 - 6.4	56	9.4
20-24	88	19.1	27.1	21.4 - 32.8	16	11.6	5.6	2.9 - 8.4	104	17.4
25-34	118	25.6	19.5	16.0 - 23.0	28	20.3	4.6	2.9 - 6.3	146	24.4
35-44	97	21.0	14.7	11.8 - 17.6	29	21.0	4.4	2.8 - 6.0	126	21.0
45-54	40	8.7	6.5	4.5 - 8.5	23	16.7	3.5	2.1 - 4.9	63	10.5
55-64	32	6.9	6.9	4.5 - 9.3	7	5.1	1.4	0.4 - 2.4	39	6.5
65-74	10	2.2	3.9	1.5 - 6.3	8	5.8	2.5	0.7 - 4.3	18	3.0
75-84	5	1.1	3.5	0.5 - 6.6	1	0.7	*	*	6	1.0
85 +	0	0.0	*	*	1	0.7	*	*	1	0.2
Total Deaths	461				138				599	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Circumstances of Homicides

The NC-VDRS collects and compiles data on the circumstances surrounding homicide to help illuminate the underlying causes of the violent event. Each victim may have had more than one circumstance associated with his or her death; therefore, the total number of homicide circumstances may exceed the total number of homicide deaths. Note: circumstance data may not be available for all victims. The percentages in the table represent the percent of the number of cases reporting circumstances. For 2006, 553 (92.3%) of all homicides had at least one circumstance identified as being associated with the death.

Note that gang-related crimes are difficult to identify and are thus probably seriously undercounted, since definitions differ across agencies.

Table 27 contains information on circumstances of homicide victims. According to the results:

- 51.6% of homicide deaths involved an argument (not related to money), abuse or conflict.
- 27.7% of homicides were precipitated by another serious crime. Burglary/robbery represented 57% of the crimes that precipitated the deaths, followed by drug trade (18%).
- 17.5% of homicides were related to intimate partner violence.

Drug-related homicides can be characterized in two ways. If a crime involving drugs was part of the homicide (e.g., drug sales), then the circumstances would be listed as “precipitated by another crime” with the sub-category of “drug trade”. If evidence suggests that drugs played a role in the homicide then it would be classified as “drug involvement”.

Table 27: Circumstances of Homicides in N.C., 2006

		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	309	51.6
	Precipitated by another serious crime	166	27.7
	Robbery	58	
	Burglary	37	
	Drug trade	30	
	Rape, Sexual assault	12	
	Motor vehicle theft	11	
	Arson	6	
	Assault	5	
	Gambling	4	
	Witness intimidation/ elimination	2	
	Other	1	
	Intimate partner violence related	105	17.5
	Drug involvement	62	10.4
	Argument over money or property	23	3.8
	Jealousy	17	2.8
	Gang related	10	1.7
	Brawl (mutual physical fight)	3	0.5
Victim Circumstances			
	Victim used a weapon	57	9.5
	Justifiable self defense	13	2.2
	Bystander	11	1.8

Section IV: Legal Intervention

NC-VDRS compiles data on legal intervention deaths. These deaths would have been classified as homicide by the medical examiner but are defined by NVDRS as legal intervention, since the victims were killed by a police officer or other peace officer (persons with specified legal authority to use deadly force), including military police, acting in the line of duty. Legal executions are not included in the CDC NVDRS but are reported in the NC-VDRS as legal intervention deaths. A total of 24 North Carolina residents died during legal intervention in 2006, including four deaths classified as legal executions. Due to small death counts, no rates were calculated for legal interventions.

Table 28 shows that:

- Most legal intervention victims were male (95.8%).
- Whites comprise the highest proportion of legal intervention deaths (58.3%).
- Most adult victims had completed a high school education (60.9%).
- 54.2% of legal intervention victims were never married.

Table 28: Gender, Race, Age Group, Education, and Marital Status of Legal Intervention Deaths in N.C., 2006

		Number	%
Gender			
	Male	23	95.8
	Female	1	4.2
Race			
	Black	10	41.7
	White	14	58.3
Age Group			
	15-19	4	16.7
	20-24	1	4.2
	25-34	5	20.8
	35-44	7	29.2
	45-54	5	20.8
	55-64	1	4.2
	65-74	1	4.2
Years of Education (for Adults)			
	< 9	2	8.7
	9-11	6	21.7
	12	10	43.5
	> 12	4	17.4
	Unknown	2	8.7
Marital Status			
	Married	5	20.8
	Never married	13	54.2
	Separated/ Divorced	5	20.8
	Widowed	1	4.2
Total Legal Intervention Deaths		24	

Section V: Unintentional Firearm Death

Unintentional firearm deaths are those deaths that result from a firearm discharge, but for which the shooting was not intentionally directed at a victim or oneself. In 2006, 14 North Carolina residents died of unintentional firearm injuries. This section presents basic demographic data and descriptions of the context in which the fatal injuries occurred. More than one circumstance may be listed for each death. Due to small numbers, rates are not calculated for this section. Data in Tables 29 and 30 demonstrate:

- The proportion of male victims of unintentional firearm death was higher than that of females (71.4% vs. 28.6%, respectively).
- The majority of unintentional firearm victims were white (85.7%).
- Most unintentional firearm deaths occurred while the victims or persons involved were “playing with a gun” (35.7%), “loading a gun” (21.4%) or “cleaning a gun” (21.4%).

Table 29: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Unintentional Firearm Injury Death Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%
Gender			
	Male	10	71.4
	Female	4	28.6
Hispanic			
	Hispanic	0	0.0
	Non-Hispanic	14	100.0
Race			
	American Indian	0	0.0
	Asian	0	0.0
	Black	2	14.3
	Pacific Islander	0	0.0
	White	12	85.7
	Other	0	0.0
Age Group			
	< 1	0	0.0
	1-4	1	7.1
	5-9	1	7.1
	10-14	0	0.0
	15-19	2	14.3
	20-24	3	21.4
	25-34	1	7.1
	35-44	1	7.1
	45-54	2	14.3
	55-64	3	21.4
	65-74	0	0.0
	75-84	0	0.0
	85 +	0	0.0
Total Unintentional Firearm Deaths		14	

Since most of the counts in this table are less than 5, no rates or rate confidence intervals are calculated.

Table 30: Characteristics of Unintentional Firearms Deaths in N.C., 2006		
	Number	%
Context		
Playing with gun	5	35.7
Loading gun	3	21.4
Cleaning gun	3	21.4
Other	2	14.3
Hunting	1	7.1
Showing gun	1	7.1

Section VI: Child Death

This section reports the characteristics associated with child deaths in North Carolina during 2006. In this report, a child is defined as a person who is less than 18 years of age. During 2006, 99 children died as a result of violence. Findings from Table 31 show that:

- Male children (6.3 per 100,000) were significantly more likely to die a violent death than female children (2.7 per 100,000).
- Child victims were more likely to be black (7.1 per 100,000) than of any other race.
- Death rates among children ages under 1 year or 15-17 years were significantly higher than death rates among children of other ages.

Tables 32-35 provide detailed information on the manners and method of child deaths by race and age groups. Results here demonstrate:

- Homicide was the leading cause of child death (63.6%).
- Firearms were the most common method of child deaths (45.5%), followed by unarmed assault (16.2%) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (13.1%).
- Black children were most likely to die of homicide (90%), whereas white children were equally likely to die of suicide or homicide (40.7% and 42.6%, respectively).
- Unarmed assault was the leading method of death in younger ages (<1 & 1-4), whereas firearms were the leading method of death in older age groups (10-14 & 15-17).

Table 31: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Child Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%	Rate	95% C.I. for Rate
Gender					
	Male	70	70.7	6.3	4.8 - 7.8
	Female	29	29.3	2.7	1.7 - 3.7
Hispanic					*
	Hispanic	12	12.1	5.5	2.4 - 8.6
	Non-Hispanic	87	87.9	4.5	3.6 - 5.4
Race					
	American Indian	1	1.0	*	*
	Asian	2	2.0	*	*
	Black	40	40.4	7.1	4.9 - 9.2
	White	54	54.5	3.6	2.6 - 4.5
	Other	2	2.0	*	*
	Unknown	0	0.0	*	*
Age Group					
	< 1	17	17.2	13.3	7.0 - 19.6
	1-4	13	13.1	2.7	1.2 - 4.1
	5-9	9	9.1	1.5	0.5 - 2.5
	10-14	14	14.1	2.4	1.1 - 3.6
	15-17	46	46.5	12.6	8.9 - 16.2
Total Deaths		99			

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Table 32: Manner and Method of Child
Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2006

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Homicide	63	63.6
	Suicide	26	26.3
	Undetermined	5	5.1
	Unintentional firearm	4	4.0
	Legal intervention	1	1.0
Method			
	Firearm	45	45.5
	Unarmed assault	16	16.2
	Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	13	13.1
	Violent shaking	7	7.1
	Poisoning	6	6.1
	Sharp instrument	4	4.0
	Motor vehicle	3	3.0
	Fire/ Burns	2	2.0
	Blunt instrument	1	1.0
	Drowning	1	1.0
	Other transport vehicle	1	1.0
Total Deaths		99	

Table 33: Violent Death Type by Race for Child Victims in N.C., 2006

	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Total
Race						
American Indian	0	1	0	0	0	1
Asian	1	1	0	0	0	2
Black	3	36	1	0	0	40
White	22	23	3	1	5	54
Other	0	2	0	0	0	2
Total Deaths	26	63	4	1	5	99

Table 34: Violent Death Manner by Age Group for Child Victims in N.C., 2006

	Age Group					
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Total
Manner						
Homicide	17	10	7	6	23	63
Suicide	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	19	26
Undetermined	0	2	1	1	1	5
Unintentional firearm	0	1	1	0	2	4
Legal intervention	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total Deaths	17	13	9	14	46	99

Table 35: Violent Death Method by Age Group for Child Victims in N.C., 2006

	Age Group					
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Total
Manner						
Firearm	0	2	4	9	30	45
Unarmed assault	9	6	1	0	0	16
Hanging, strangulation, or asphyxiation	0	1	1	3	8	13
Violent shaking	7	0	0	0	0	7
Poisoning	1	2	0	1	2	6
Sharp instrument	0	0	2	0	2	4
Motor vehicle	0	1	0	0	2	3
Fire/ Burn	0	0	1	1	0	2
Blunt instrument	0	0	0	0	1	1
Drowning	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other transport vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total Deaths	17	13	9	14	46	99

Section VII: Weapons

This section reports specific data on the type of weapons used in violent deaths in North Carolina during 2006. It should be noted that analogous weapons are only counted once (i.e., if four poisons were used in a suicide, the weapon of poison was only counted once). However, if more than one type of weapon was used (e.g., a firearm and a poison), then the weapon is categorized as “More than one method”. Tables 36, 37 and 38 report the type of weapon used in suicide, homicide and total deaths, both for the overall population and for each gender respectively:

- For overall violent deaths, firearms (62.0%) were the most common weapon used, followed by poisoning (13.6%).
- Firearms were the most common weapon used in both homicide (68.5%) and suicide (59.3%).
- Sharp instruments were the second most common weapon used in homicides (12.4%), and poisoning (19.4%) was second most common for suicides.
- For both males and females, firearms were the most common weapon used in overall and homicide deaths.
- For suicide deaths, poisoning (44.2%) was the leading weapon used for females and firearm (65.3%) was the leading weapon used for males.

Table 39 reports the type of weapons used in violent deaths for each age group. In the younger age groups (under 10 years), unarmed assault and violent shaking are the most common weapon used. For all other ages, firearms are the most common weapon used in overall violent deaths.

In Table 40, we identify the specific type of firearm used in the different manners of death. In all cases, handguns are the most common type of firearm used.

Table 36: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in N.C., 2006

	Manner of Death							
	Suicide		Homicide		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Weapon Type								
Firearm	654	59.3	410	68.5	40	50.0	1,106	62.0
Poisoning	214	19.4	2	0.3	27	33.8	243	13.6
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	181	16.4	18	3.0	1	1.3	200	11.2
Sharp instrument	13	1.2	74	12.4	1	1.3	88	4.9
Unarmed assault	0	0.0	38	6.3	0	0.0	38	2.1
Blunt instrument	0	0.0	36	6.0	1	1.3	37	2.1
Fire/ Burns	11	1.0	5	0.8	2	2.5	18	1.0
Fall	8	0.7	1	0.2	3	3.8	12	0.7
Drowning	7	0.6	0	0.0	3	3.8	10	0.6
Other transport vehicle	10	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.6
Motor vehicle	4	0.4	3	0.5	1	1.3	8	0.5
Violent shaking	0	0.0	7	1.2	0	0.0	7	0.4
Other	2	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.2
Unknown	0	0.0	2	0.3	1	1.3	3	0.2
More than one method	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.1
Total Deaths	1,106		599		80		1,785	

Table 37: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death for Males in N.C., 2006

	Manner of Death							
	Suicide		Homicide		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Weapon Type								
Firearm	558	65.3	343	74.4	33	57.9	934	68.0
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	158	18.5	8	1.7	0	0.0	166	12.1
Poisoning	103	12.1	1	0.2	15	26.3	119	8.7
Sharp instrument	10	1.2	48	10.4	1	1.8	59	4.3
Unarmed assault	0	0.0	29	6.3	0	0.0	29	2.1
Blunt instrument	0	0.0	21	4.6	1	1.8	22	1.6
Fire/ Burns	6	0.7	1	0.2	2	3.5	9	0.7
Other transport vehicle	7	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.5
Drowning	4	0.5	0	0.0	2	3.5	6	0.4
Motor vehicle	3	0.4	2	0.4	1	1.8	6	0.4
Fall	4	0.5	0	0.0	1	1.8	5	0.4
Violent shaking	0	0.0	5	1.1	0	0.0	5	0.4
Other	2	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.2
Unknown	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	1.8	2	0.2
More than one method	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Total Deaths	855		461		57		1,373	

Table 38: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death for Females in N.C., 2006

	Manner of Death							
	Suicide		Homicide		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Weapon Type								
Firearm	98	39.0	67	48.6	7	30.4	172	41.4
Poisoning	111	44.2	1	0.7	12	52.2	124	30.1
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	23	9.2	10	7.3	1	4.4	34	8.3
Sharp instrument	3	1.2	26	18.8	0	0.0	29	7.0
Blunt instrument	0	0.0	15	10.9	0	0.0	15	3.7
Unarmed assault	0	0.0	9	6.5	0	0.0	9	2.2
Fire/ Burns	5	2.0	4	2.9	0	0.0	9	2.2
Fall	4	1.6	1	0.7	2	8.7	7	1.7
Drowning	3	1.2	0	0.0	1	4.4	4	1.0
Other transport vehicle	3	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.7
Violent shaking	0	0.0	2	1.5	0	0.0	2	0.5
Motor vehicle	1	0.4	1	0.7	0	0.0	2	0.5
More than one method	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.2
Unknown	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.2
Total Deaths	251		138		23		412	

Table 39: Type of Weapon by Age Group in N.C., 2006

Age Group																													
Weapon Type	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-19		20-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		75-84		85+		Total		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Firearm	0	0.0	2	15.4	4	44.4	9	64.3	80	71.4	159	74.7	196	62.8	197	55.3	195	55.7	114	61.0	83	74.1	50	78.1	17	65.4	1,106	62.0	
Poisoning	1	5.9	2	15.4	0	0.0	1	7.1	6	5.4	10	4.7	39	12.5	62	17.4	80	22.9	28	15.0	9	8.0	3	4.7	2	7.7	243	13.6	
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	11.1	3	21.4	14	12.5	26	12.2	41	13.1	50	14.3	34	9.7	19	10.2	3	2.7	4	6.3	3	11.5	200	11.2	
Sharp instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	22.2	0	0.0	7	6.3	8	3.8	23	7.4	13	3.7	16	4.6	13	7.0	2	1.8	3	4.7	1	3.9	88	4.9	
Unarmed assault	9	52.9	6	46.2	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	5	1.6	4	1.1	6	1.7	4	2.1	2	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	38	2.1	
Blunt instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9	5	2.4	3	1.0	12	3.4	4	1.1	4	2.1	5	4.5	3	4.7	0	0.0	37	2.1	
Fire/ Burns	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	7.1	0	0.0	3	1.4	1	0.3	3	0.8	4	1.1	2	1.1	3	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	1.0	
Fall	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	1	0.3	1	0.3	6	1.7	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	2	7.7	12	0.7	
Drowning	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.9	1	0.5	2	1.8	1	1.6	1	3.9	10	0.6	
Other transport vehicle	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.3	7	2.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.6	
Motor vehicle	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.8	0	0.0	1	0.3	3	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	0.5	
Violent shaking	7	41.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.4	
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2	
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2	
More than one method	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	
Total Deaths	17		13		9		14		112		213		312		356		350		187		112		64		26		1,785		

Table 40: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in N.C., 2006
(For Firearm Deaths Only)*

	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undertermined		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm Type												
Handgun	448	68.3	309	75.4	10	71.4	17	85.0	5	83.3	789	71.3
Rifle	74	11.3	36	8.8	2	14.3	1	5.0	0	0.0	113	10.2
Shotgun	125	19.1	41	10.0	2	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	168	15.2
Firearm, unknown type	9	1.4	24	5.8	0	0.0	2	10.0	1	16.7	36	3.3
Total Deaths	656		410		14		20		6		1,106	

* The total number of deaths in this tables does not equal 1,103 because more than one firearm might have been used per each incident.

Section VIII: Intimate Partner Violence (Homicides only)

This section examines the role of intimate partner violence (IPV) in homicides of North Carolina residents that occurred during 2006. NC-VDRS defines IPV victims as those who die as a result of IPV. These deaths are not exclusive to the partners themselves, but include those deaths that are a direct result of conflict between current or former partners. Although these deaths are associated with a conflict between partners, they also can include victims outside of the relationship, such as a child or friend of the victim. These victims often are bystanders or are assisting the crime victim. Table 41 reports demographic data for all homicide deaths, separating those that are IPV-related from those that are non-IPV-related:

- Overall, 17.5% of homicides were identified as being a result of IPV.
- Close to half of all female homicides (44.9%) were associated with IPV, while only 9.3% of male homicides involved IPV.
- 16.4% of black and 19.4% of white homicide victims' deaths were due to IPV.
- IPV-related homicides, as a proportion of total homicides, were highest among those ages 45-54 (23.8%), followed by those ages 35-44 (21.4%) and those ages 25-34 (21.2%).

Tables 42 through 46 examine only those deaths that were classified as being related to IPV:

- 71.6% of IPV victims completed a high school education.
- The proportions of IPV deaths were similar among married (41.9%) and never-married (38.1%) victims.
- Among males, blacks (58.1%) had the highest proportion of IPV-related homicides, while among females, proportions were similar for blacks (46.8%) and whites (50.0%).
- When looking only at IPV homicides, the highest proportion of victims was in ages 25-34 among both males (34.9%) and females (25.8%).
- Males were most likely to have been killed by a current or former girlfriend/boyfriend (37.3%), while females were more likely to have been killed by a spouse or ex-spouse.

Table 41: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Intimate Partner-Related (IPV)
Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

		IPV-Related		Not IPV-Related		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Gender							
	Male	43	9.3	418	90.7	461	77.0
	Female	62	44.9	76	55.1	138	23.0
Hispanic							
	Hispanic	4	6.6	57	93.4	61	10.2
	Non-Hispanic	101	18.8	437	81.2	538	89.8
Race							
	American Indian	4	21.1	15	79.0	19	3.2
	Asian	0	0.0	4	100.0	4	0.7
	Black	54	16.4	275	83.6	329	54.9
	White	47	19.4	195	80.6	242	40.4
	Other	0	0.0	4	100.0	4	0.7
	Unknown	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	0.2
Age Group							
	< 1	0	0.0	17	100.0	17	2.8
	1 - 4	0	0.0	10	100.0	10	1.7
	5 - 9	0	0.0	7	100.0	7	1.2
	10-14	1	16.7	5	83.3	6	1.0
	15-19	8	14.3	48	85.7	56	9.4
	20-24	13	12.5	91	87.5	104	17.4
	25-34	31	21.2	115	78.8	146	24.4
	35-44	27	21.4	99	78.6	126	21.0
	45-54	15	23.8	48	76.2	63	10.5
	55-64	6	15.4	33	84.6	39	6.5
	65-74	3	16.7	15	83.3	18	3.0
	75-84	1	16.7	5	83.3	6	1.0
	85 +	0		1		1	0.2
Total		105	17.5	494	82.5	599	

Table 42: Years of Education Completed for Adult Intimate Partner-Related Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	4	3.9
9-11	24	23.5
12	46	45.1
> 12	27	26.5
Unknown	1	1.0
Total Deaths	102	

Table 43: Marital Status of Intimate Partner-Related Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Number	%
Marital Status		
Married	44	41.9
Never married	40	38.1
Separated/Divorced	18	17.1
Widowed	3	2.9
Total Deaths	105	

Table 44: Race by Gender of Intimate Partner-Related Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male		Female		Total	
Race	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
American Indian	2	4.7	2	3.2	4	3.8
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Black	25	58.1	29	46.8	54	51.4
White	16	37.2	31	50.0	47	44.8
Total Deaths	43		62		105	

*Rates are not shown for males and females in some age groups, where the number of deaths is less than 5, as low numbers do not yield meaningful rates among small populations.

Table 45: Age Group by Gender of Intimate Partner-Related Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Age Group						
10-14	1	2.3	0	0.0	1	1.0
15-19	2	4.7	6	9.7	8	7.6
20-24	3	7.0	10	16.1	13	12.4
25-34	15	34.9	16	25.8	31	29.5
35-44	12	27.9	15	24.2	27	25.7
45-54	6	14.0	9	14.5	15	14.3
55-64	3	7.0	3	4.8	6	5.7
65-74	0	0.0	3	4.8	3	2.9
75-84	1	2.3	0	0.0	1	1.0
Total Deaths	43		62		105	

Table 46 lists the relationship between the victim and the suspect involved in the intimate partner homicide. Relationships between the victim and the suspect are defined as “the victim is the ____ of the suspect”. For example, if a parent kills a child, the relationship is “Child”.

Table 46: Relationship by Gender of Intimate Partner-Related Homicide Victims in N.C., 2006

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Relationship						
Current/Former/Unspecified Girlfriend/Boyfriend	16	37.3	27	43.5	43	40.9
Spouse/Ex-spouse	9	20.9	31	50.0	40	38.0
Acquaintance	12	27.9	2	3.2	14	11.4
In-law	2	4.7	1	1.6	3	2.8
Other person, known to victim	1	2.3	1	1.6	3	2.8
Child/Step-child	1	2.3	0	0	1	1.0
Parent/Step-parent	1	2.3	0	0	1	1.0
Child of suspect's girlfriend/boyfriend	1	2.3	0	0	1	1.0
Friend	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stranger	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	43		62		105	

Section IX: Undetermined Intent

Deaths of undetermined intent are included in the NC-VDRS because this category includes some deaths with some evidence of intent, but without enough to definitively classify as purposeful.

Table 47: Gender, Race, Age Group, Education, and Marital Status of Undetermined Intent Deaths in N.C., 2006

		Number	Rate
Gender			
	Male	24	57.1
	Female	18	42.9
Race			
	American Indian	1	2.4
	Black	6	14.3
	White	35	83.3
Age Group			
	1-4	2	4.8
	5-9	1	2.4
	10-14	1	2.4
	15-19	3	7.1
	20-24	4	9.5
	25-34	4	9.5
	35-44	7	16.7
	45-54	15	35.7
	55-64	2	4.8
	65-74	2	4.8
	75-84	1	2.4
Years of Education (for Adults)			
	< 9	2	5.4
	9-11	10	27.0
	12	10	27.0
	> 12	15	40.5
	Unknown	0	0
Marital Status			
	Married	22	52.4
	Never married	13	31.0
	Separated/ Divorced	6	14.3
	Widowed	1	2.4
Total Undetermined Intent Deaths		42	

Appendix A: Number and Rate of Violent Death Type by County and Manner of Death: 2006

The numbers in this table represent counts based on county of injury, not county of death or county of residence. Rates are provided per 100,000 persons.

Appendix A: Number and Rate of Violent Deaths by County and Manner of Death: N.C., 2006 ALAMANCE - CAMDEN							
	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Total	
County	#	#	#	#	#	#	Rate
Missing	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Alamance	20	7	0	0	0	27	19.0
Alexander	10	2	0	0	0	12	33.3
Alleghany	2	2	0	0	0	4	*
Anson	5	6	0	0	0	11	43.5
Ashe	7	0	0	0	1	8	31.6
Avery	0	1	0	0	0	1	*
Beaufort	10	0	0	0	0	10	21.8
Bertie	0	1	0	0	0	1	*
Bladen	3	4	0	0	1	8	24.7
Brunswick	15	6	0	0	0	21	22.3
Buncombe	31	8	0	3	1	43	19.3
Burke	12	5	1	0	0	18	20.3
Cabarrus	18	8	0	0	2	28	18.0
Caldwell	15	4	1	0	1	21	26.6
Camden	2	2	0	0	0	4	*

Appendix A: Number and Rate of Violent Deaths by County and Manner of Death: N.C., 2006
CARTERET - GRAHAM

County	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined		Total	
	#		#		#		#		#		#	Rate
Carteret	12		2		1		0		0		15	23.7
Caswell	2		1		0		0		0		3	*
Catawba	30		8		0		1		2		41	26.8
Chatham	6		2		0		0		0		8	13.4
Cherokee	7		0		0		0		0		7	26.8
Chowan	1		0		0		0		0		1	*
Clay	3		0		0		0		0		3	*
Cleveland	15		10		0		0		0		25	25.6
Columbus	2		6		0		0		0		8	14.8
Craven	17		6		0		0		0		23	23.9
Cumberland	31		29		0		0		2		62	20.2
Currituck	4		0		1		0		0		5	21.3
Dare	3		0		0		0		0		3	*
Davidson	24		8		0		1		3		36	23.2
Davie	6		1		0		0		0		7	17.6
Duplin	6		6		0		0		0		12	22.9
Durham	20		21		0		1		0		42	16.8
Edgecombe	6		5		0		0		0		11	20.7
Forsyth	39		24		0		0		3		66	19.9
Franklin	8		3		0		0		1		12	21.6
Gaston	35		6		1		0		0		42	21.2
Gates	2		0		0		0		0		2	*
Graham	3		4		0		0		0		7	88.1

Appendix A: Number and Rate of Violent Deaths by County and Manner of Death: N.C., 2006
GRANVILLE - MITCHELL

	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Total	
County	#	#	#	#	#	#	Rate
Granville	4	5	0	0	0	9	16.7
Greene	1	3	0	0	0	4	*
Guilford	60	39	0	1	1	101	22.2
Halifax	8	3	0	0	0	11	19.9
Harnett	9	3	0	1	1	14	13.2
Haywood	9	1	0	0	2	12	21.4
Henderson	19	7	0	0	0	26	26.4
Hertford	3	1	1	1	0	6	25.8
Hoke	3	4	0	0	0	7	17.0
Hyde	1	1	0	0	0	2	*
Iredell	19	4	1	0	0	24	16.4
Jackson	5	1	2	0	0	8	22.0
Johnston	12	9	0	0	1	22	14.6
Jones	1	1	0	0	0	2	*
Lee	7	4	0	0	0	11	19.4
Lenoir	6	7	0	0	0	13	22.8
Lincoln	13	4	0	0	0	17	23.9
McDowell	5	1	1	0	0	7	16.2
Macon	8	2	1	0	0	11	34.1
Madison	2	0	0	0	1	3	*
Martin	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Mecklenburg	71	75	0	4	3	153	18.3
Mitchell	3	0	0	0	0	3	*

Appendix A: Number and Rate of Violent Deaths by County and Manner of Death: N.C., 2006
MONTGOMERY - STANLY

County	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined		Total	
	#		#		#		#		#		#	Rate
Montgomery	4		0		0		0		0		4	*
Moore	12		9		0		0		0		21	25.4
Nash	12		15		0		0		0		27	29.5
New Hanover	31		9		0		2		2		44	23.5
Northampton	2		2		0		1		0		5	24.0
Onslow	18		9		0		1		1		29	17.9
Orange	14		4		0		0		0		18	14.7
Pamlico	4		1		0		0		0		5	39.8
Pasquotank	6		8		0		0		0		14	35.4
Pender	4		1		0		0		1		6	12.5
Perquimans	0		1		0		0		0		1	*
Person	5		3		0		0		0		8	21.6
Pitt	12		12		0		1		1		26	17.5
Polk	2		1		0		0		0		3	*
Randolph	24		6		0		0		0		30	21.6
Richmond	8		5		0		0		0		13	28.3
Robeson	15		30		0		0		1		46	36.2
Rockingham	12		5		0		1		3		21	22.8
Rowan	33		9		0		0		1		43	31.7
Rutherford	7		6		1		1		0		15	23.8
Sampson	3		5		0		0		0		8	12.7
Scotland	6		2		0		0		0		8	22.0
Stanly	9		4		0		0		0		13	22.2

Appendix A: Number and Rate of Violent Deaths by County and Manner of Death: N.C., 2006
STOKES - YANCEY

	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Total	
County	#	#	#	#	#	#	Rate
Stokes	8	0	0	0	1	9	19.6
Surry	15	1	1	0	0	17	23.5
Swain	0	3	0	0	0	3	*
Transylvania	6	1	0	0	0	7	23.6
Tyrrell	1	0	0	0	1	2	*
Union	19	14	0	0	0	33	19.2
Vance	1	6	0	0	0	7	16.2
Wake	56	24	1	4	2	87	11.0
Warren	2	9	0	0	0	11	56.6
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Watauga	8	0	0	0	0	8	18.1
Wayne	13	10	0	0	0	23	20.4
Wilkes	10	6	0	0	0	16	24.0
Wilson	11	5	0	0	1	17	22.4
Yadkin	8	0	0	0	0	8	21.3
Yancey	3	0	0	0	1	4	*
Total Deaths	1,106	599	14	24	43	1,785	20.1

Appendix B: Population Data on which Rate Calculations are Based

Appendix B: Population Data on which Rate Calculations are Based			
		Number of Total Population	Number of Children (age <18)
Gender			
	Male	4,342,380	1,106,542
	Female	4,527,062	1,056,549
Hispanic			
	Hispanic	592,178	218,791
	Non-Hispanic	8,277,264	1,944,300
Race			
	American Indian	113,824	31,214
	Asian	177,494	49,600
	Black	1,959,416	566,961
	White	6,618,708	1,515,316
Age Group			
	< 1	128,302	128,302
	1-4	489,602	489,602
	5-9	589,211	589,211
	10-14	589,651	589,651
	15-19	606,566	(ages 15-17) 366,325
	20-24	609,962	n/a
	25-34	1,214,066	n/a
	35-44	1,323,880	n/a
	45-54	1,265,856	n/a
	55-64	975,885	n/a
	65-74	574,312	n/a
	75-84	366,485	n/a
	85 +	135,664	n/a
Total Population		8,869,442	2,163,091

Appendix C: Advisory Boards, 2006

The list of advisory board members below represents the membership and their positions during the year of this report.

NC-VDRS Data Users Advisory Board

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Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

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Strategic Initiatives Manager, Raleigh Police Department

Leslie Starsonneck

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Jennifer Tolle-Whiteside

Co-Chair, Child Fatality Task Force; Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

David C. Wiesner, PhD

Licensed Psychologist

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Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Tammy Norwood

Program Manager, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Public Health Researcher, RTI International

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Timothy Parker

N.C. State Bureau of Investigation



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Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

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